

KOGARATSU

THE BACK OF
THE TIGER



REPERAGES
DUPUIS

1. Generalizing Newton's solution

Let $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$ be a vector field.

Let $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$

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Let $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$

Let $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$

Let $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$

Let $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$

KOGARITSU

THE BACK OF
THE TREE

scenario: Nichols

director: Barnes



Stand left
to right

"CASTLE OF ISHIKARI, AUGUST 1611, THE SUN, STILL AND DEVASTATING,
IS IN THE REBEL CAMP, BRINGING A PROCESSION OF CALAMITIES..."



"THE FIRST, AND FROM FAR THE WORST IS THIRST. IT DRIES UP AND KILLS EVERYTHING. WITH THAT CRUEL PATIENCE THAT MAKES IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO BEAR..."

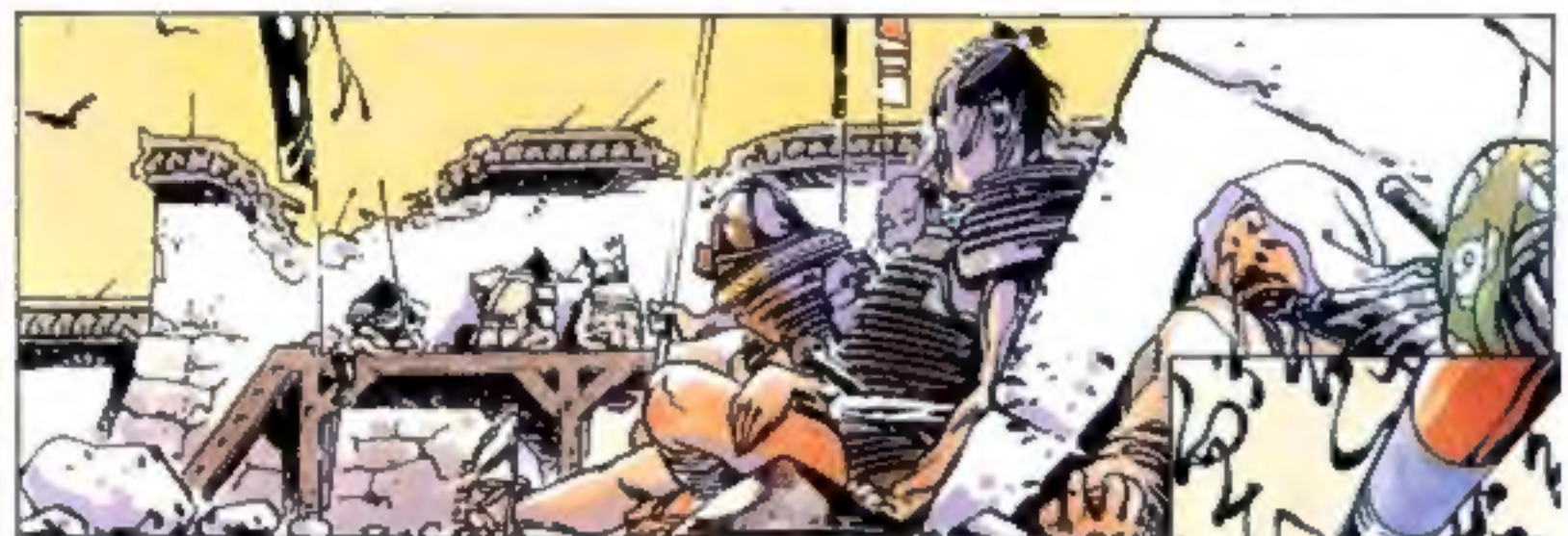
The Back of the Tiger

BOSSE

1611

"BROTHER MOSQUITO, IS ALSO HERE. IT MADE ITSELF MYRIAD TO JOIN THIS MORBID CELEBRATION. IT BITES AND IRRITATES... LEAVING BEHIND SWOLLEN LIMBS AND DYSENTERIC FEVERS, THAT EMPTY OUR PEOPLE FROM THE LAST DROPS OF WATER LEFT IN THEM..."

"...NOT TO MENTION THE DISEASES, SLOW OR LIGHTNING, THEY CORRUPT AND PUTREFY FLESH. THEY SWEEP FROM ONE BODY TO THE OTHER, IN THE END EVERYONE OF US FEARS THE PROXIMITY OF OTHERS. THIS IS THE LOT OF THE DEFENDERS OF THIS CASTLE, BESIEGED FOR NEARLY TWO MONTHS NOW..."



"...BUT OUR SITUATION BECAME EVEN MORE DESPERATE WHEN THE REBELS DISCOVERED AND DESTROYED THE CANALISATIONS THAT SUPPLIED THE CASTLE WITH DRINKING WATER..."



"I WON'T MENTION THE SMELLS, WHICH BECAME UNBEARABLE, SINCE THE TANKS BECAME EMPTY, EVEN NOBLE PEOPLE CANNOT WASH, AND THE PERFUME IS STARTING TO LACK..."



"...BY CHANCE, THE RESERVES OF THE CASTLE CONTAINED MANY BARRELS OF SAKE AND WE, LADIES, ARE NOT DYING FROM THIRST, EVEN IF WE SUFFER FROM HEARTBURNS....."



AS FOR THE GARRISON, IT IS MELTING AWAY. SOON, WE WILL HAVE TO USE FURNITURE AND PANELLING TO BURN THE CORPSES. A GREASY SMOKE IS ALWAYS RISING FROM THE GARDENS..."



"...I WONDER WHY THE CASTLE HASN'T FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF SIRE BANDO AND HIS PEASANTS..."



"...ACTUALLY, THEY MAY BE WAITING FOR US TO BECOME CRAZY, JUST LIKE SIRE MITSURU. OR MAYBE THEY BECAME CRAZY, AFTER STAYING SO LONG IN THE SUN..."



...AND YOU ARE AMONG THOSE MAD MEN, KOG-ARATSU! AT THE SAME TIME SO CLOSE AND SO FAR FROM ME...



ALL THIS HUMAN MISERY, AND WE ARE HERE, IN THE COOL, IN THE CALM. YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU WANT, BUT WAR HAS ITS GOOD POINTS, NEP?



HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH A THING? WAR CAN BE NECESSARY SOMETIMES... BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE PLEASURE IN IT...

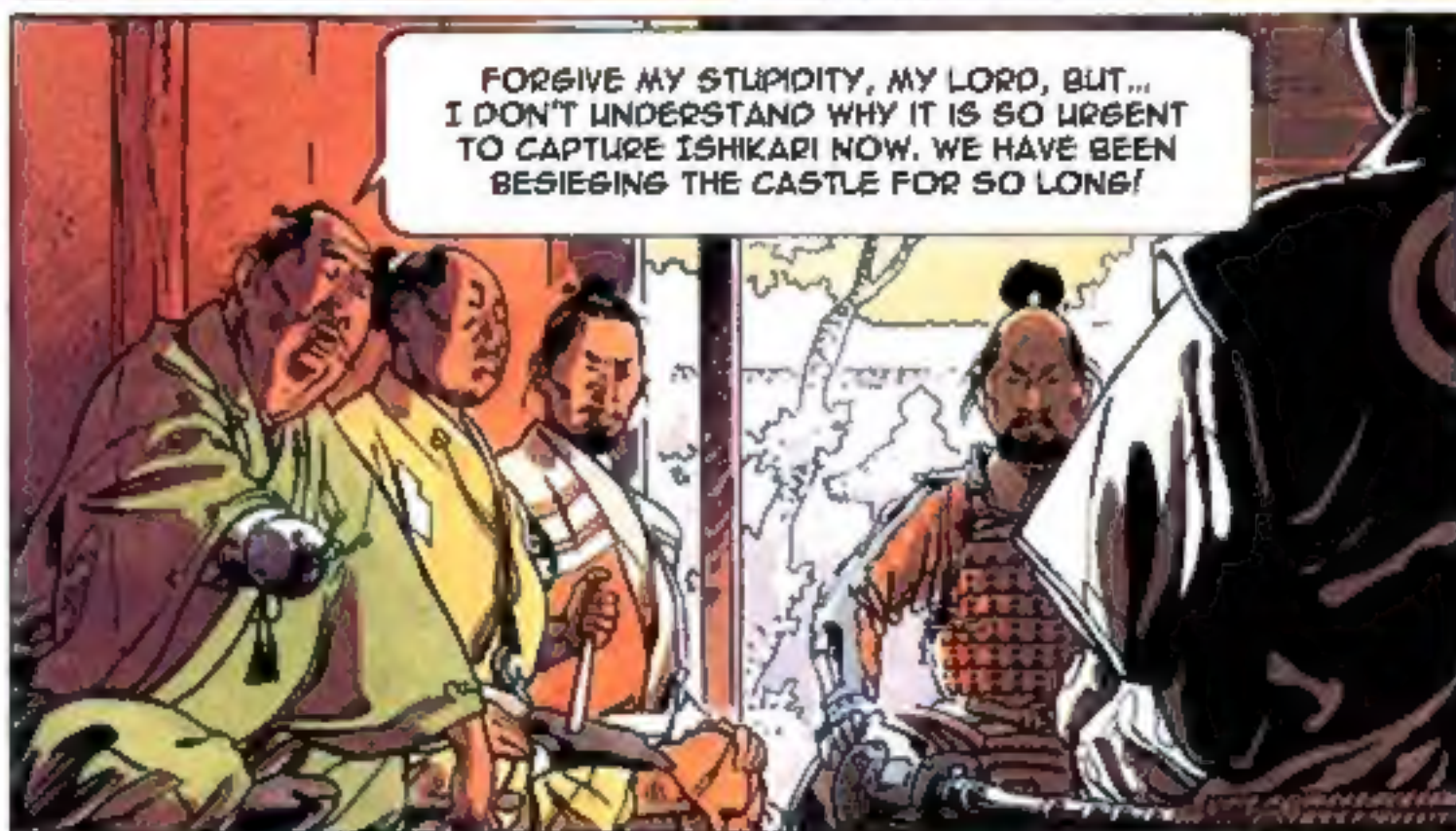
YOU ARE QUITE A WHINER TODAY, SAMURAI! IS YOUR LIVER ACHING?



OR IS IT YOUR HEART? ...HE HE HE...



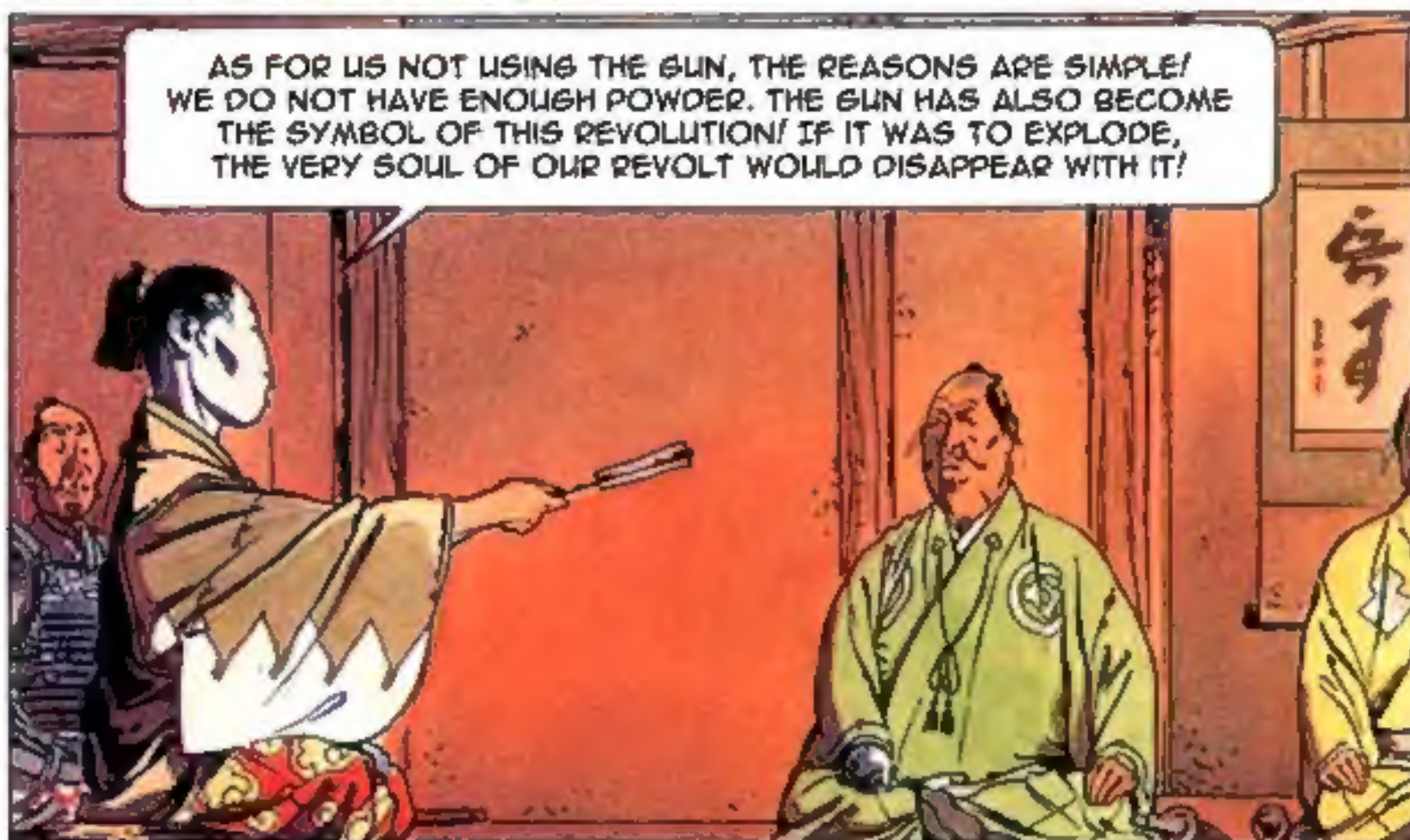
KOGARATSU-SAN! SIRE BANDO REQUIRES YOUR PRESENCE IMMEDIATELY!



FORGIVE MY STUPIDITY, MY LORD, BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS SO URGENT TO CAPTURE ISHIKARI NOW. WE HAVE BEEN BESIEGING THE CASTLE FOR SO LONG!



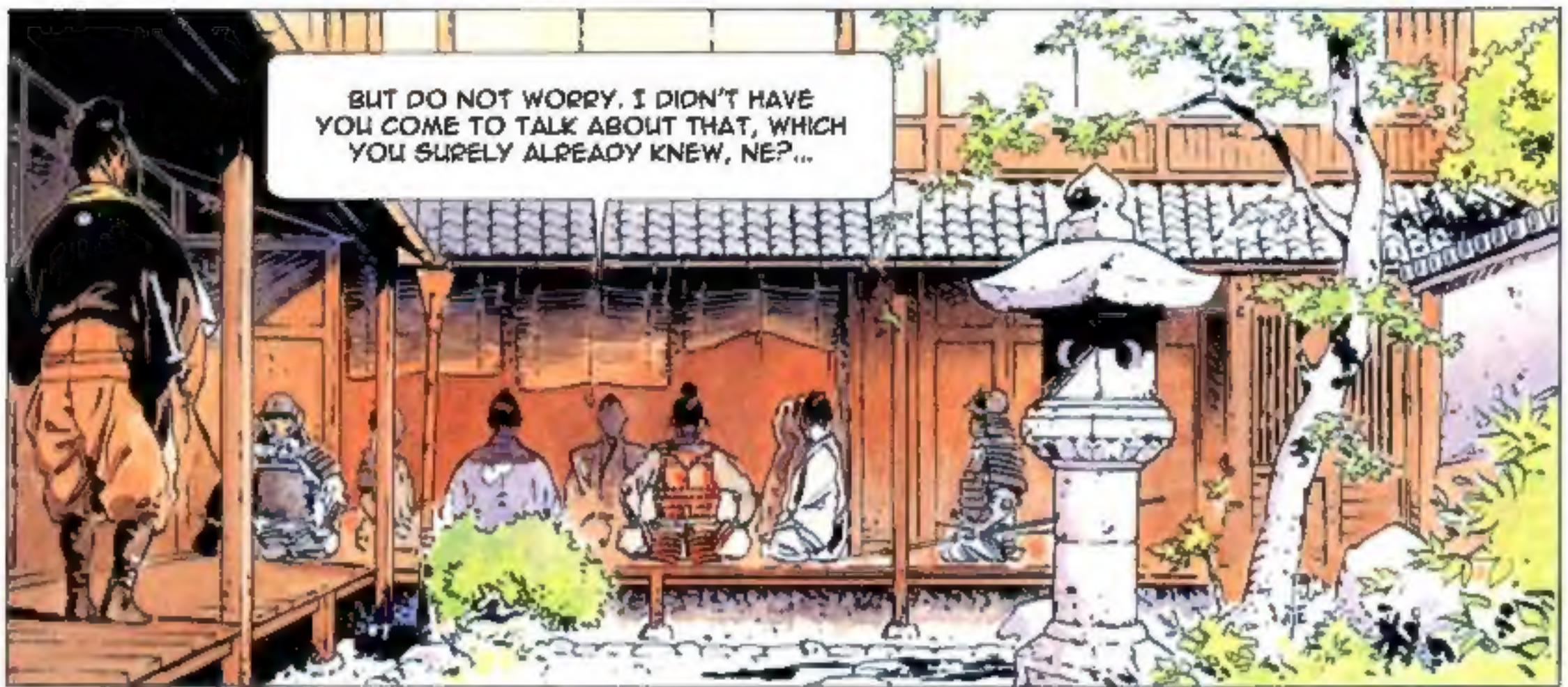
THE TROOPS THE SHOGUN ASKED FOR HELP ARE ABOUT TO LAND IN HOKKAIDO. IN A WEEK, THEY'LL ATTACK US FROM THE REAR!



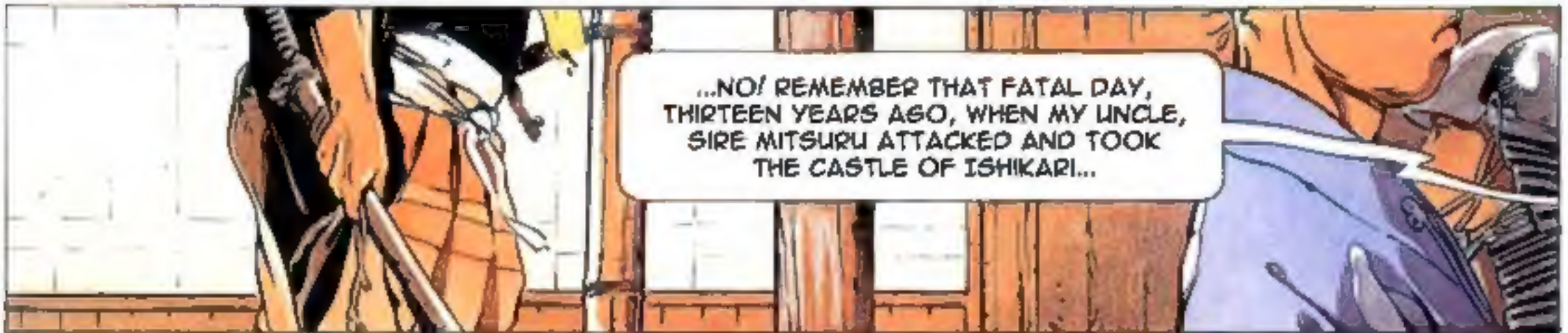
AS FOR US NOT USING THE GUN, THE REASONS ARE SIMPLE! WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH POWDER. THE GUN HAS ALSO BECOME THE SYMBOL OF THIS REVOLUTION! IF IT WAS TO EXPLODE, THE VERY SOUL OF OUR REVOLT WOULD DISAPPEAR WITH IT!



OUR MEN, WOULD ALSO TAKE IT AS A SIGN, AND WOULD DESERT IN MASS! THIS IS WHY I WANT TO KEEP IT SAFE, AS A THREAT!



BUT DO NOT WORRY. I DIDN'T HAVE
YOU COME TO TALK ABOUT THAT, WHICH
YOU SURELY ALREADY KNEW, NE?...



...NO! REMEMBER THAT FATAL DAY,
THIRTEEN YEARS AGO, WHEN MY UNCLE,
SIRE MITSURU ATTACKED AND TOOK
THE CASTLE OF ISHIKARI...



...SO THAT I COULD ESCAPE
THE MASSACRE, MY FATHER HID
ME IN A SECRET ROOM, ALONG
WITH IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS,
MENTIONING A STAIRCASE AND
A LADDER INSIDE THE WALLS.
THIS PASSAGE IS SUPPOSED
TO LEAD TO THE OUTSIDE!



...THIS WAS WHERE SIRE
YEMITSU FOUND ME BY
CHANCE THE NEXT MORNING.



ALAS... I DO NOT
KNOW WHERE THE
EXIT OF THE SECRET
PASSAGE IS...



...AND WHY MY
FAMILY DIDN'T USE IT
TO ESCAPE FROM
THE SLAUGHTER!



IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, KOGARATSU-SAN, YOUR MASTER TOLD YOU THIS STORY BEFORE HE DIED, DID HE NOT?



...THAT IS TRUE. ALAS... HE DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO TELL ME WHERE THE EXIT OF THIS CORRIDOR WAS...



IT MAKES HIS DISAPPEARANCE EVEN MORE PAINFUL.



KOGARATSU-SAN, YOU WILL TAKE THE LEAD OF A HEIMIN SQUAD. SEARCH THE WHOLE AREA. I WANT THIS CORRIDOR TO BE DISCOVERED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! MY PLAN REQUIRES IT!



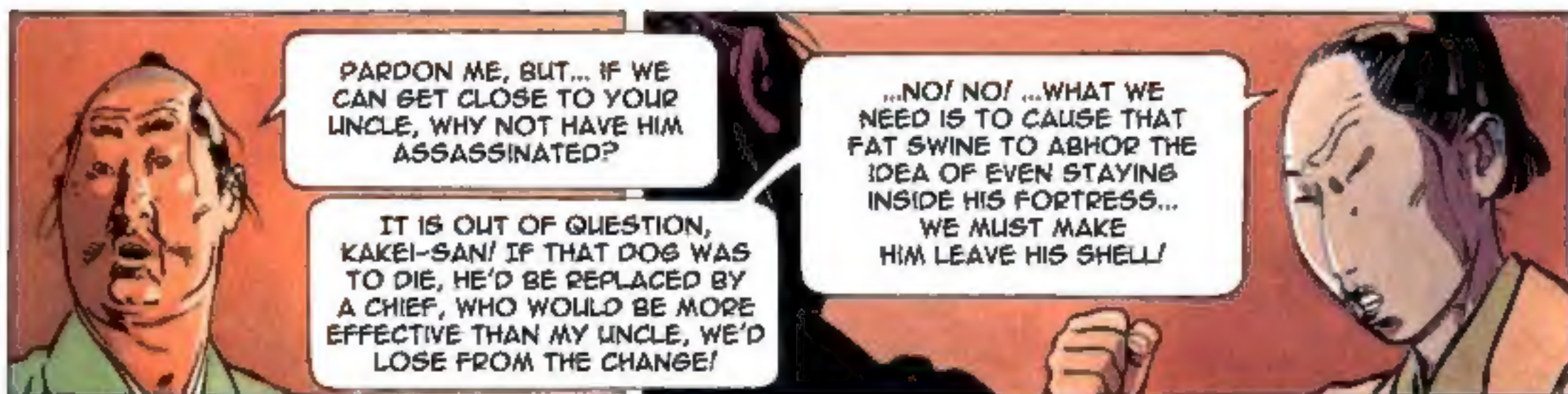
THE SECRET ROOM THE PASSAGE STARTS FROM, IS IN THE FORMER ROOM OF MY FATHER, THAT PIG OF MITSURU NOW LIVES IN IT!



...YOU KNOW MY DESPOTIC UNCLE'S SANITY IS QUITE WEAK. IF SOMEONE WAS TO SNEAK INTO THE CASTLE AND ACT AS MY BROTHER'S GHOST, HE'D BECOME COMPLETELY MAD!

HA! HA! HA! HA!





PARDON ME, BUT... IF WE CAN GET CLOSE TO YOUR UNCLE, WHY NOT HAVE HIM ASSASSINATED?

IT IS OUT OF QUESTION, KAKEI-SAN! IF THAT DOG WAS TO DIE, HE'D BE REPLACED BY A CHIEF, WHO WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN MY UNCLE, WE'D LOSE FROM THE CHANGE!

...NO! NO! ...WHAT WE NEED IS TO CAUSE THAT FAT SWINE TO ABHOR THE IDEA OF EVEN STAYING INSIDE HIS FORTRESS... WE MUST MAKE HIM LEAVE HIS SHELL!



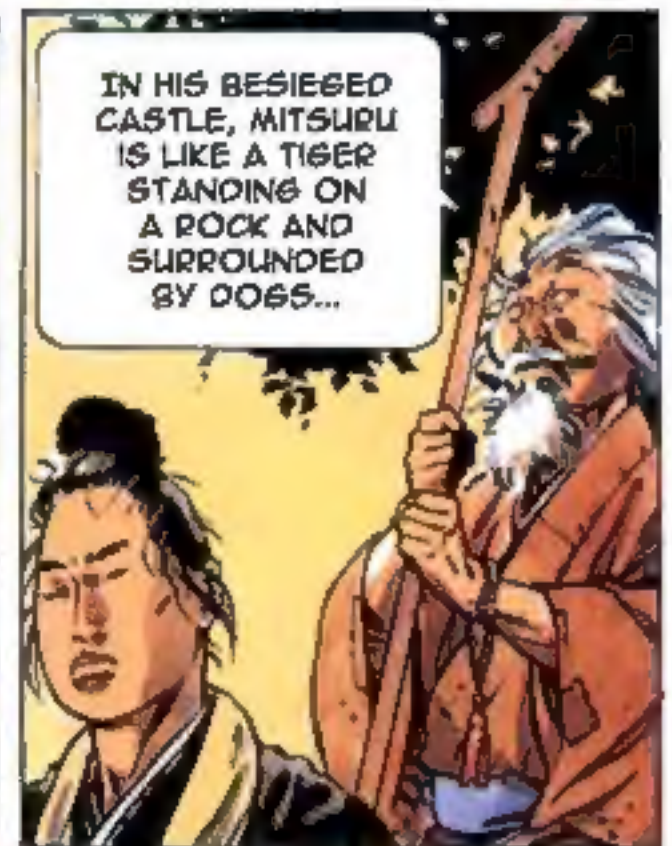
HOWEVER, THIS MISSION NEEDS MY ABSOLUTE TRUST... AND ALAS, THE PERSON I INTENDED TO HAVE IT CARRIED OUT BY IS DEAD...

BUT THE RESPONSIBLE ONE FOR HIS DEATH KNOWS THAT I EXPECT HIM TO REPLACE THAT PERSON!

...AM I RIGHT, KOGARATSU-SAN?



...BUT, BUNKA-SAN... WHAT
CAN A SAMURAI DO ON HIS
OWN INSIDE AN ENEMY
FORTRESS?



IN HIS BESIEGED
CASTLE, MITSURU
IS LIKE A TIGER
STANDING ON
A ROCK AND
SURROUNDED
BY DOGS...



WHAT CAN THEY BE
SEARCHING FOR?

MAYBE THEY THINK
THERE'S ANOTHER WATER
CANALISATION?



DO THEY NOT KNOW THAT
ALL WE HAVE LEFT TO DRINK
IS OUR HORSES' BLOOD?

MAYBE THIS IS THE
REASON WHY THEY
HAVEN'T ATTACKED YET...



HMM... IF THEY WAIT ANY LONGER,
THERE WILL ONLY REMAIN DEAD
BODIES TO DEFEND THESE WALLS!



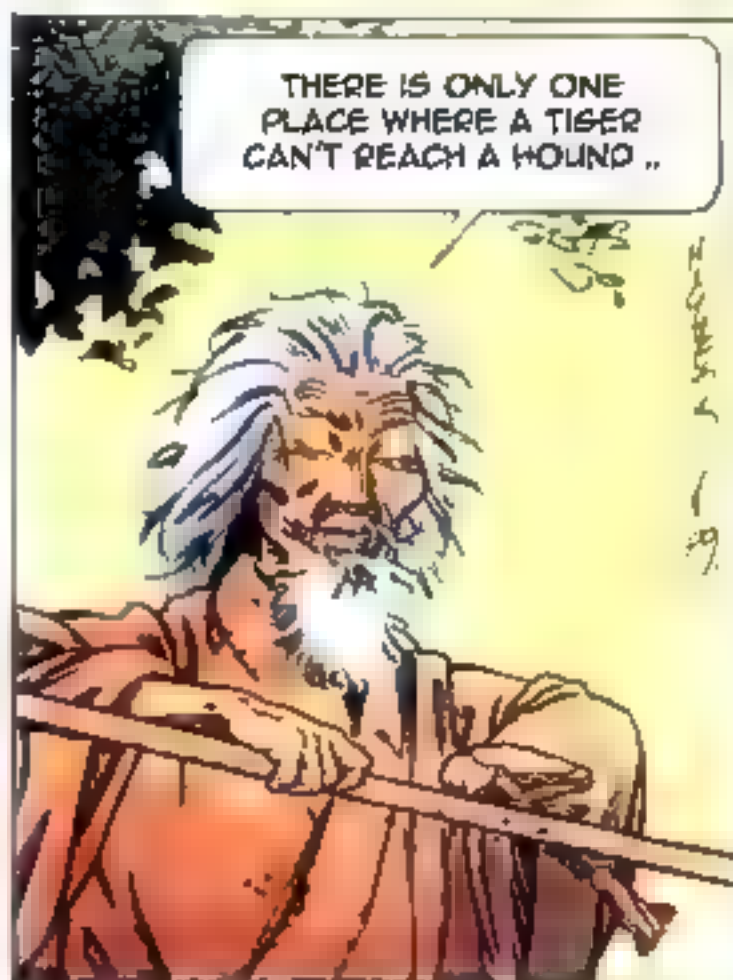
...IF ONLY IT COULD RAIN!



IF THAT ANIMAL IS ATTACKED FROM THE FRONT OR FROM BEHIND, IT WILL USE ITS FANGS AND CLAWS TO DEFEND ITSELF. IF WE ..



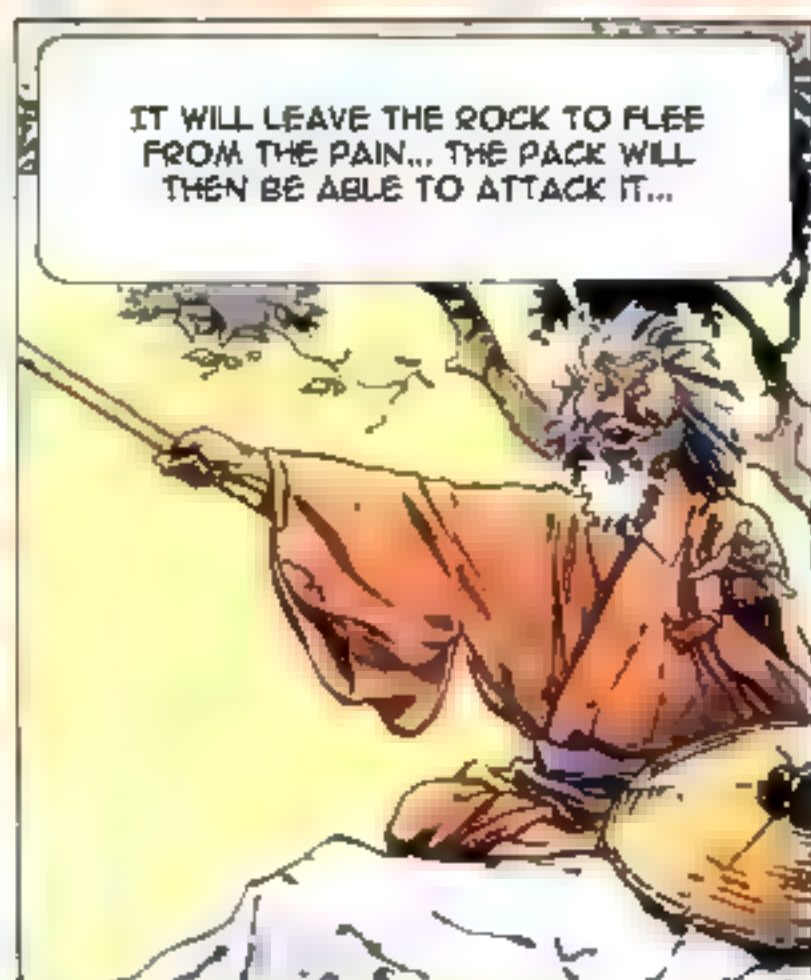
..ATTACK FROM THE SIDES, IT IS SO FAST THAT IT TURNS TO FACE US BEFORE WE CAN STRIKE..



THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE A TIGER CAN'T REACH A HOUND ..



..ITS OWN BACK! IF THE DOG CAN REACH IT AND STAY THERE, THE TIGER WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING AND WILL RECEIVE THE DOG'S BITES, UNABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF ..



IT WILL LEAVE THE ROCK TO FLEE FROM THE PAIN... THE PACK WILL THEN BE ABLE TO ATTACK IT...



.. MITSURU IS A SURROUNDED TIGER, AND YOU, KOGARATSU, MUST BE A COURAGEOUS HOUND!

I AGREE, BUNKA-SAN! BUT IF I WANT TO BECOME THAT HOUND, WE MUST FIND THE SECRET PASSAGE!



AND SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'RE NOT PROCEEDING THE RIGHT WAY!

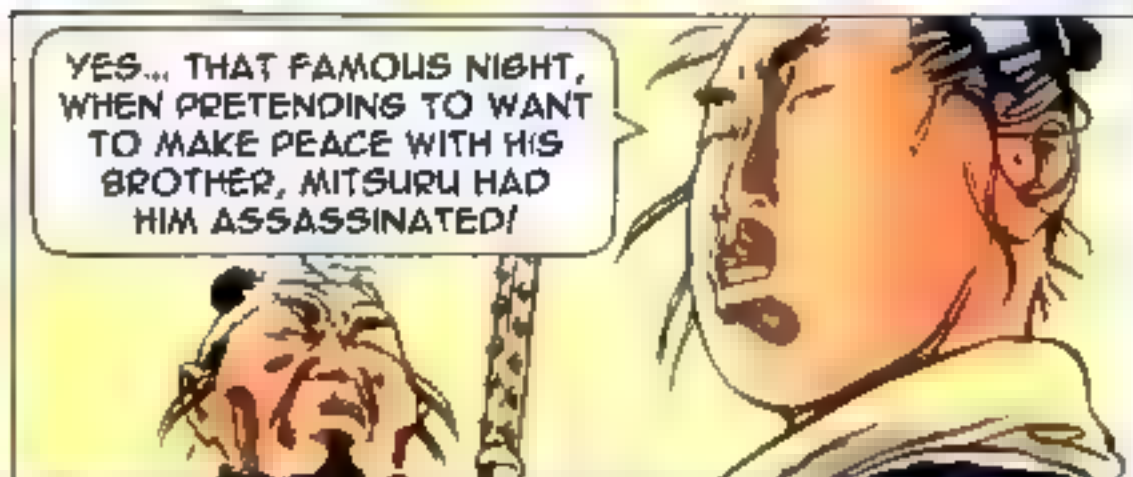
I DON'T KNOW IF
WE'RE NOT SEARCHING
THE RIGHT WAY, BUT WE'RE
NOT FINDING ANYTHING!



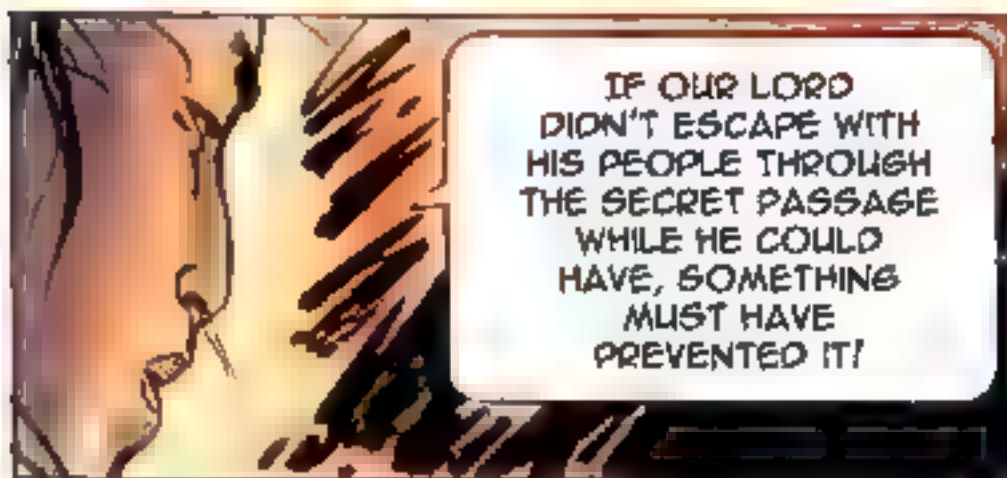
THE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM
COULD BE FOUND IF WE SEARCHED
THIRTEEN YEARS AGO...



YES... THAT FAMOUS NIGHT,
WHEN PRETENDING TO WANT
TO MAKE PEACE WITH HIS
BROTHER, MITSURU HAD
HIM ASSASSINATED!



IF OUR LORD
DIDN'T ESCAPE WITH
HIS PEOPLE THROUGH
THE SECRET PASSAGE
WHILE HE COULD
HAVE, SOMETHING
MUST HAVE
PREVENTED IT!



...IT WAS NINJAS WHO ATTACKED THE
CASTLE! MITSURU'S SAMURAI'S WERE
STAYING IN THE VILLAGE!

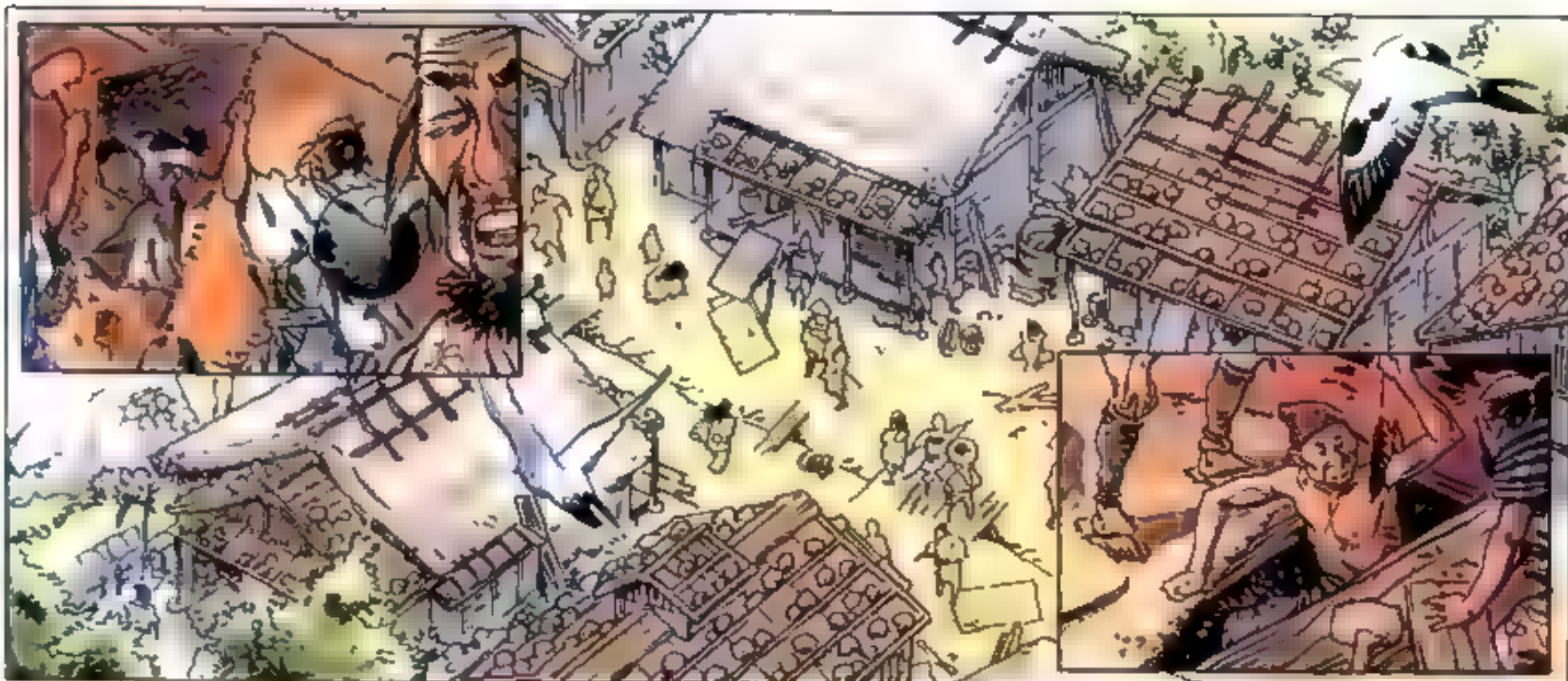


THE... THE
VILLAGE!



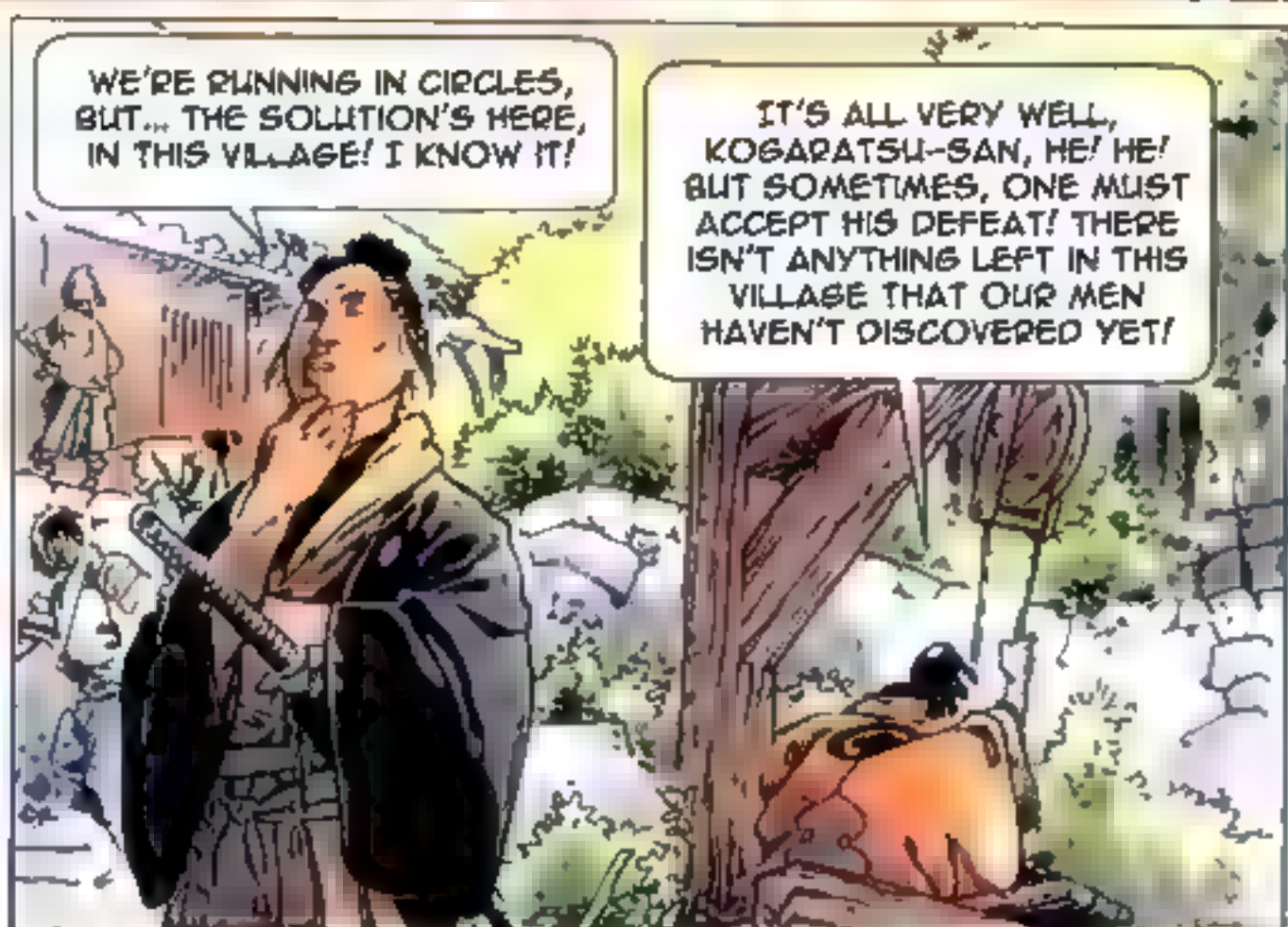
FOLLOW ME! TO THE
VILLAGE, QUICKLY!





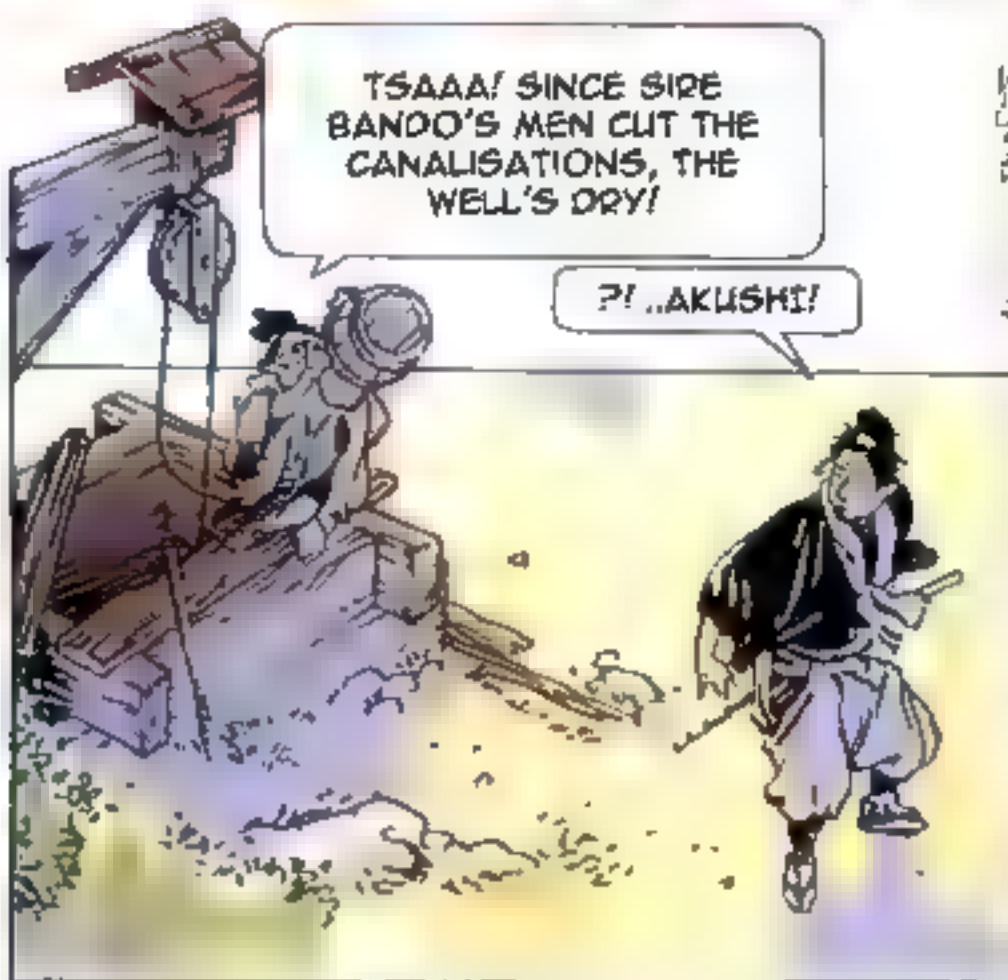
IT WILL BE NIGHT SOON!
AND WE HAVEN'T FOUND
ANYTHING!

HMM...



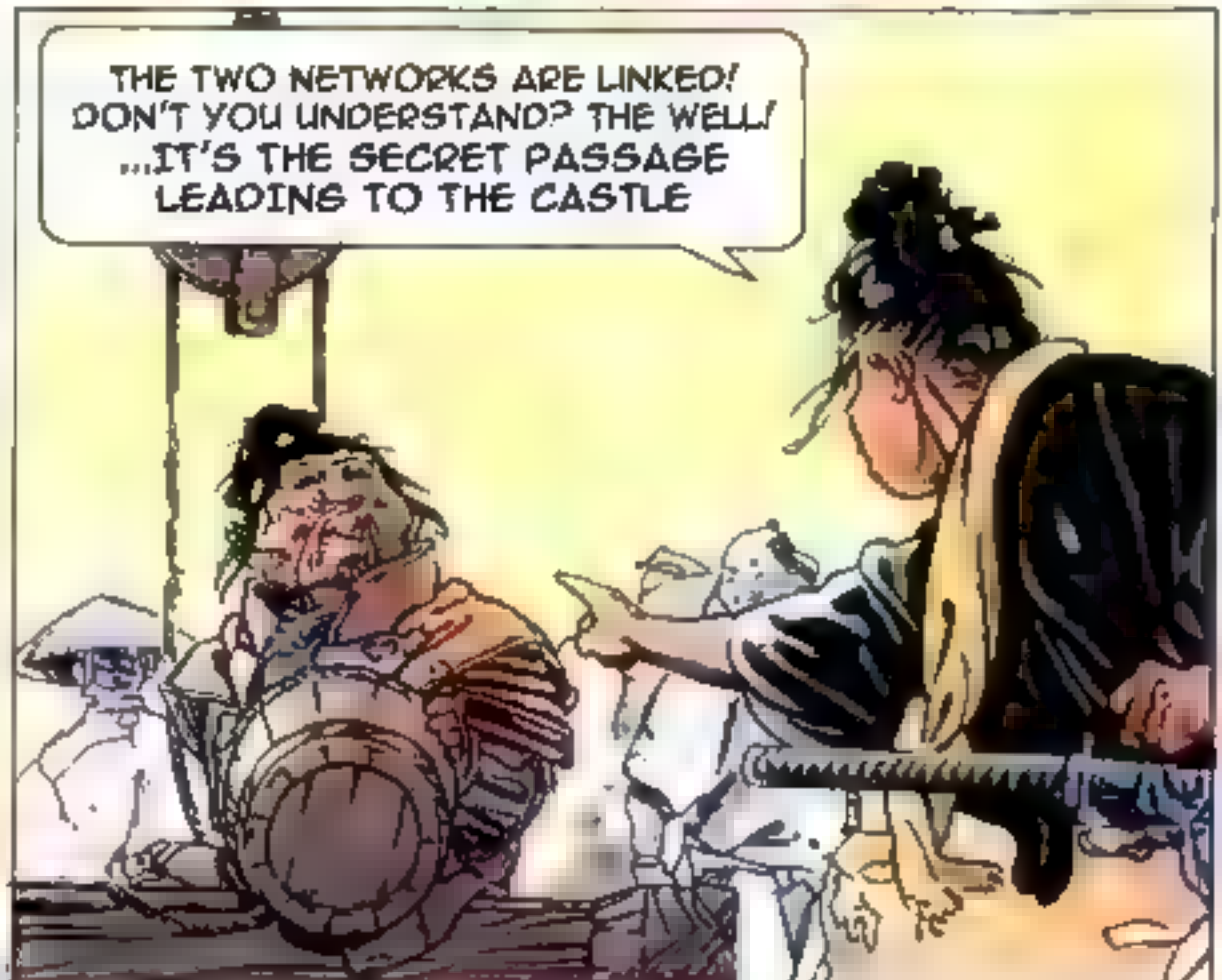
WE'RE RUNNING IN CIRCLES,
BUT... THE SOLUTION'S HERE,
IN THIS VILLAGE! I KNOW IT!

IT'S ALL VERY WELL,
KOGARATSU-SAN, HE! HE!
BUT SOMETIMES, ONE MUST
ACCEPT HIS DEFEAT! THERE
ISN'T ANYTHING LEFT IN THIS
VILLAGE THAT OUR MEN
HAVEN'T DISCOVERED YET!



TSAAA! SINCE SIRE
BANDO'S MEN CUT THE
CANALISATIONS, THE
WELL'S DRY!

?! ..AKUSHI!



THE TWO NETWORKS ARE LINKED!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THE WELL!
...IT'S THE SECRET PASSAGE
LEADING TO THE CASTLE



I PRAY YOU ARE
RIGHT TIME IS
RUNNING, I CAN
FEEL THE RAIN
COMING!



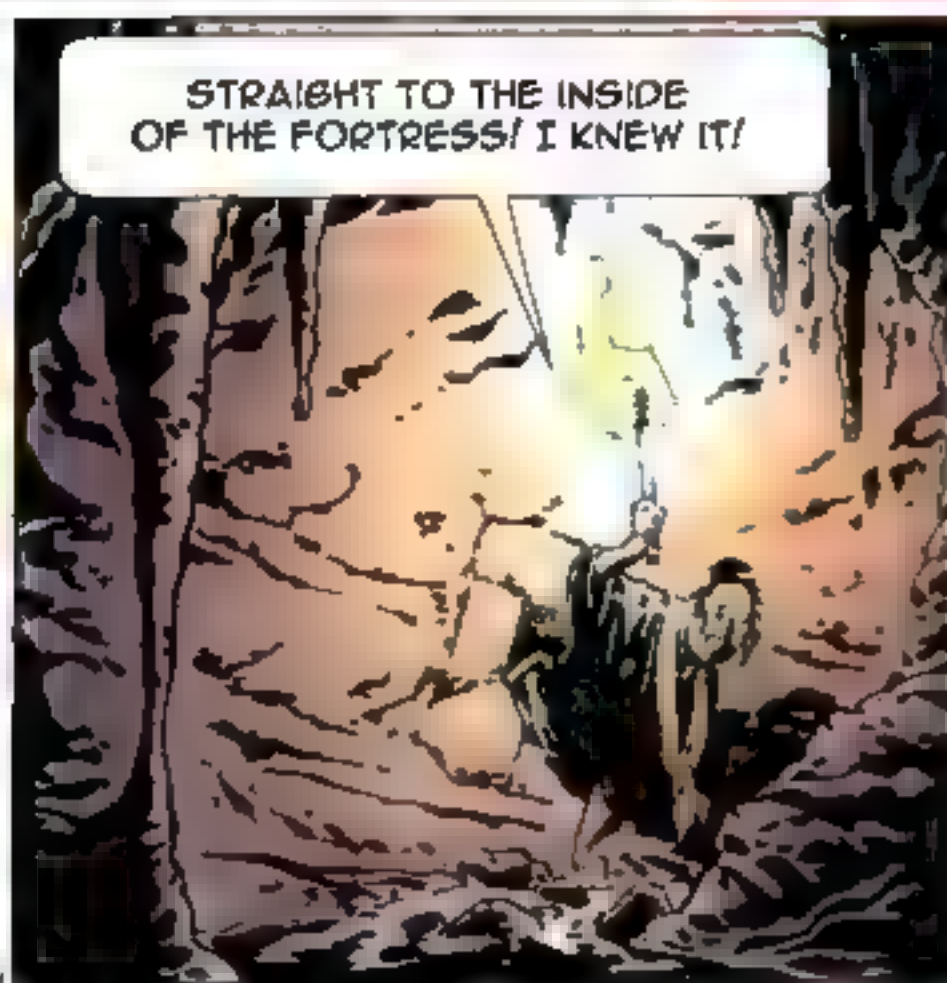
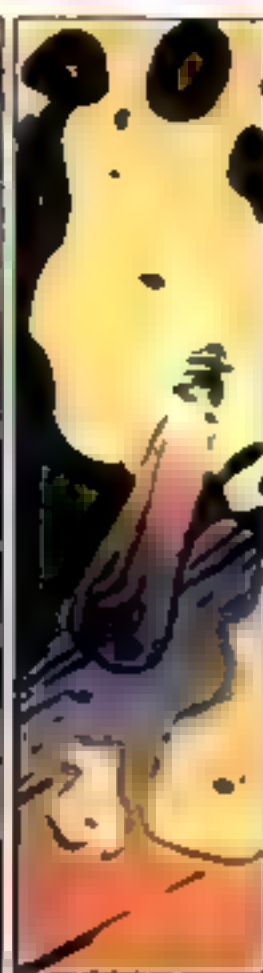
MY REASON-
ING IS RIGHT,
BUNKA-SAN!
BY AMIDA,
IT MUST BE!



THIS
TIME...



SEND ME
THE TORCH!



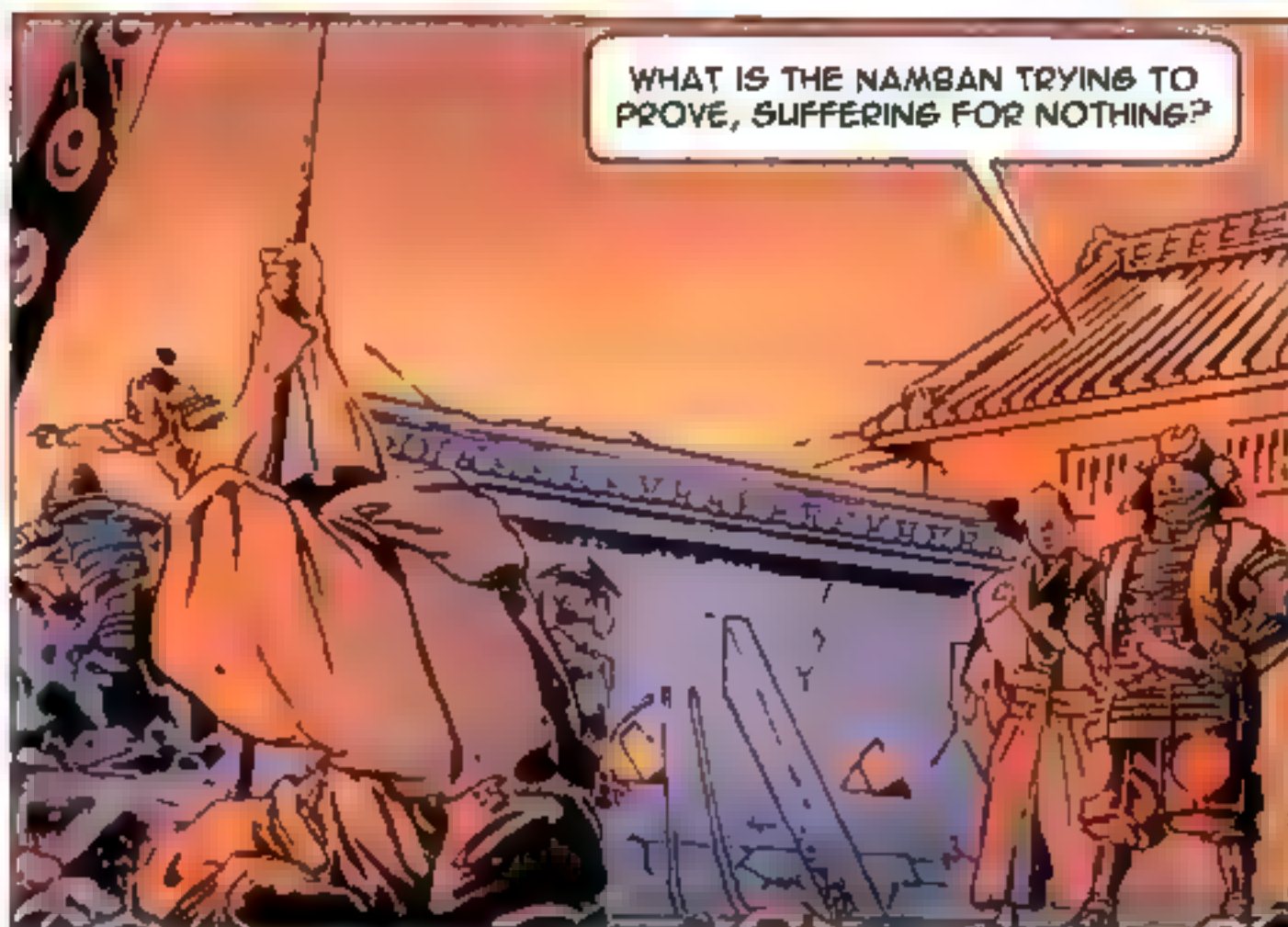
STRAIGHT TO THE INSIDE
OF THE FORTRESS! I KNEW IT!

"WHEN THE NIGHT FINALLY COMES, AS THE SUN SLOWLY FALLS BEHIND THE HORIZON, AS THE HEAT STARTS TO FADE AND MEN WELCOME THE SHADE WITH GRATITUDE..."

"...AT LAST, THEY ARE NOT FORCED ANY LONGER TO MASS ALONG THE WALLS TO ESCAPE THE TERRIBLE BITE OF THE SUN WHICH FINISHES WHAT THE LACK OF WATER STARTED..."



"PADRE ORTEGA SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY PERSON LOOKING FOR THE SUN AND WHILE HE MORTIFIES HIMSELF HE KEEPS ON REPEATING THE SAME PRAYERS. THE KIRISHITO TOO HAS PROBABLY BECOME CRAZY..."

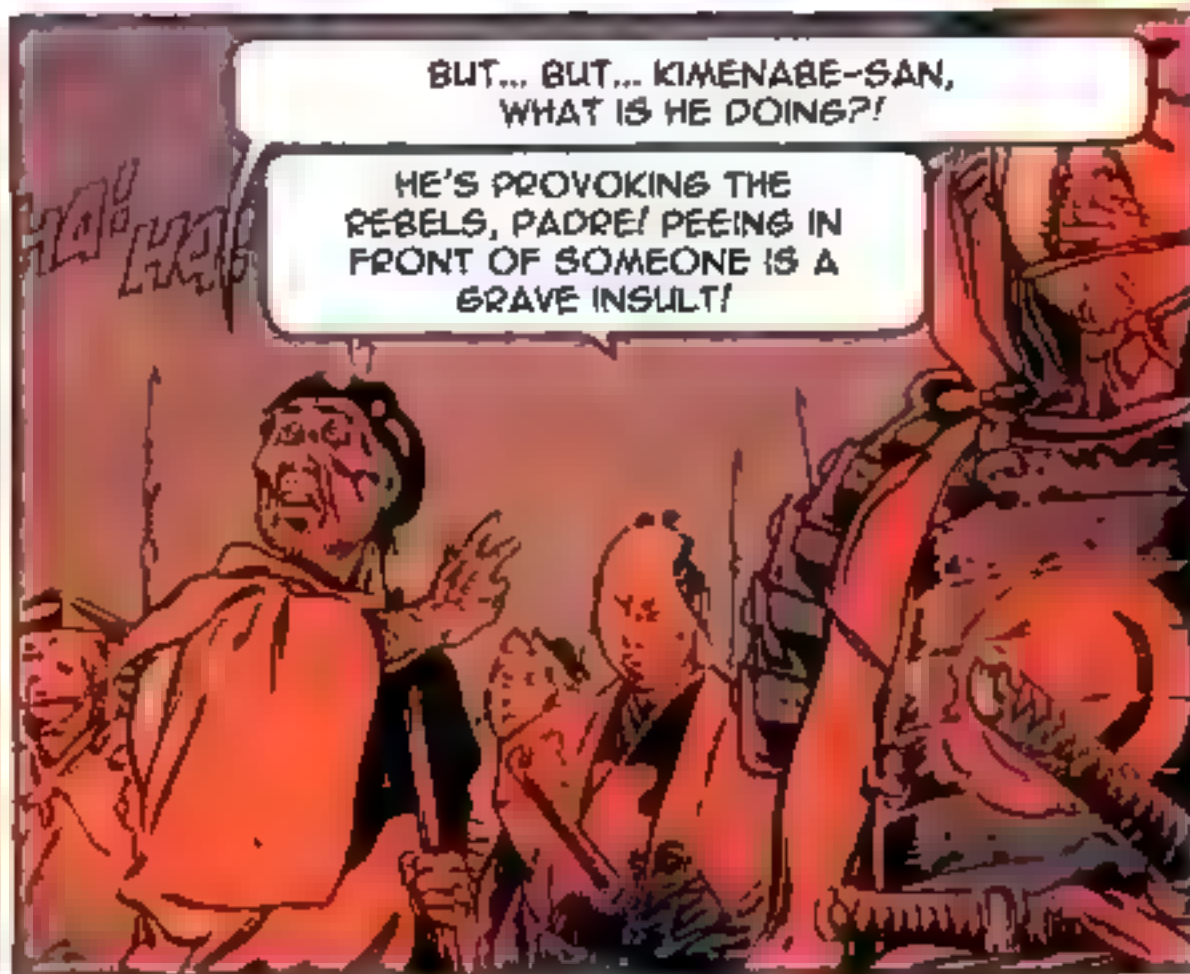
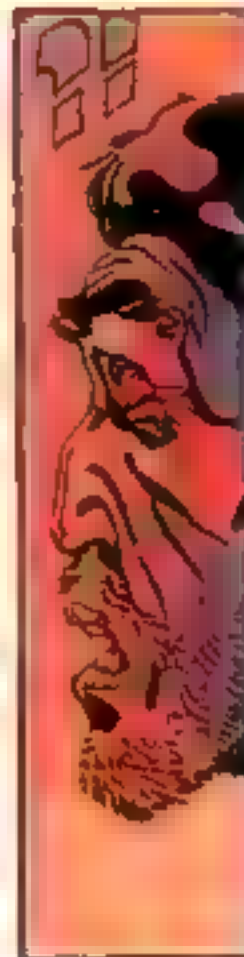


WHAT IS THE NAMBAN TRYING TO PROVE, SUFFERING FOR NOTHING?

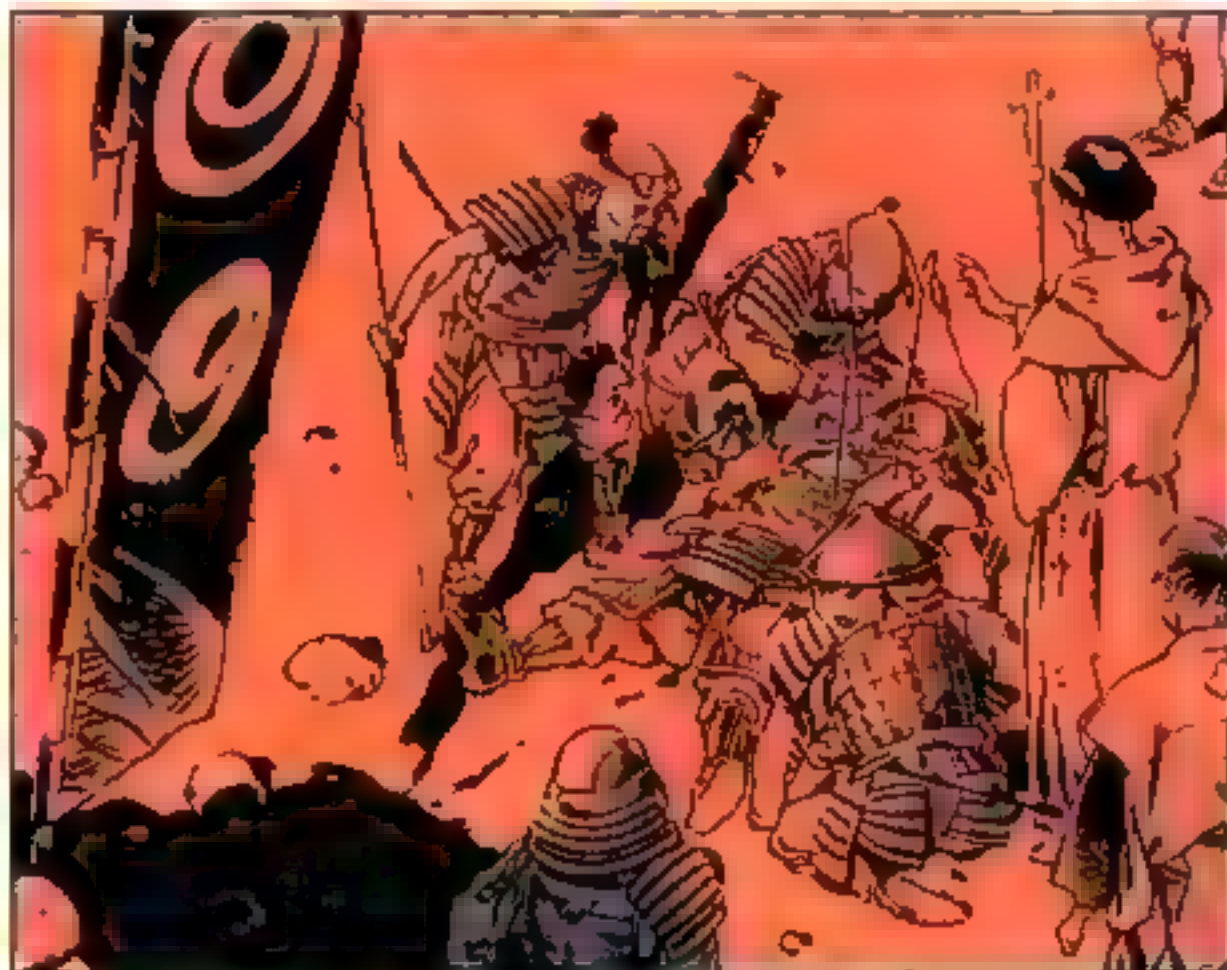
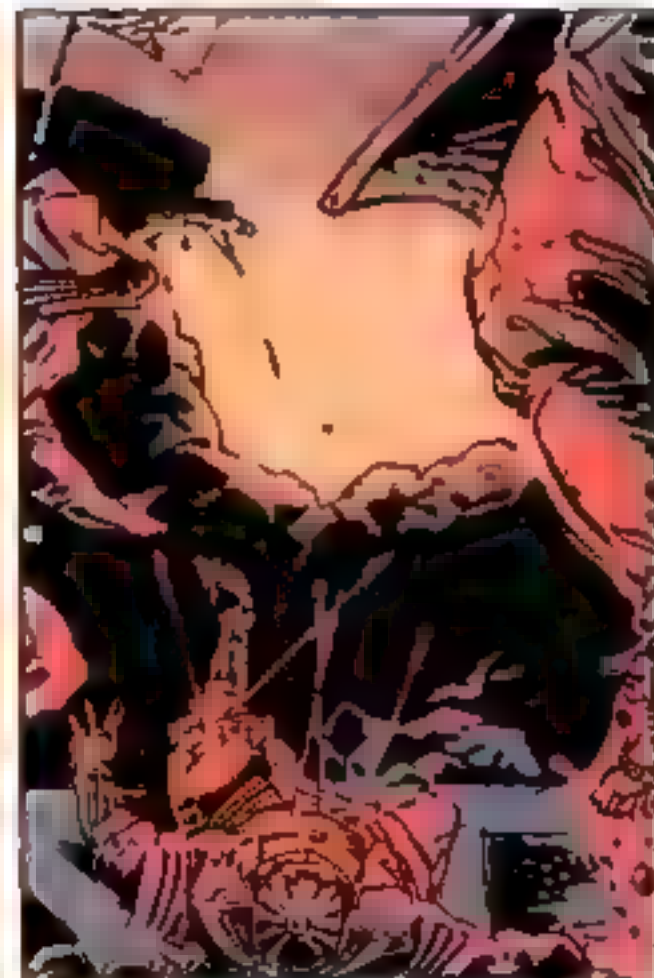


HE SAYS HE'S OFFERING HIS TORMENTS TO HIS GOD SO THAT HE'LL SHOW MERCY ON US! HE ALSO WANTS TO SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE OF COURAGE!

COURAGE?



REBELS! I,
YOKOTA TOBEI
OF ARIMA, PEE
ON YOUR HEADS
AND ON YOUR
DESCENDANTS!
I...



SEE... WHAT THE
WORD COURAGE
MEANS... TO US!

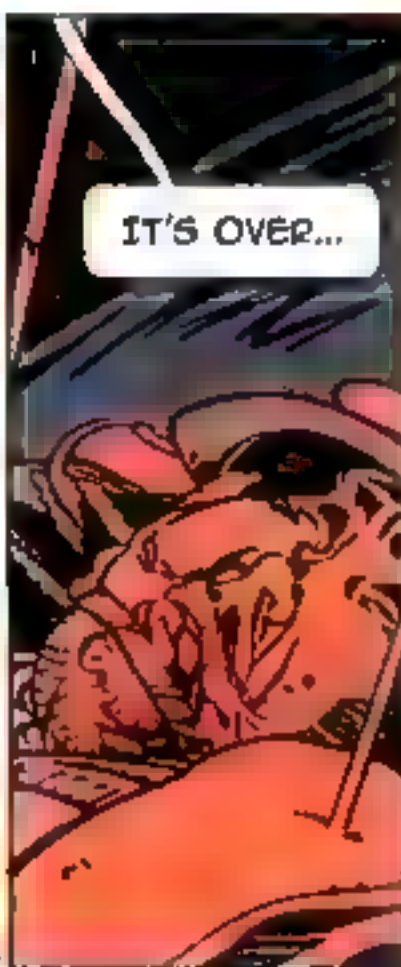


TOBEI-SAN...



MA... MATSUMOTO-
SAN, MY OLD FRIEND
I ACCOMPLISHED
MY KARMA, I... I...

IT'S OVER...



THIS IS ABSURD...



NOT MORE THAN
LETTING THE SUN BURN
YOUR HEAD, PADRE!

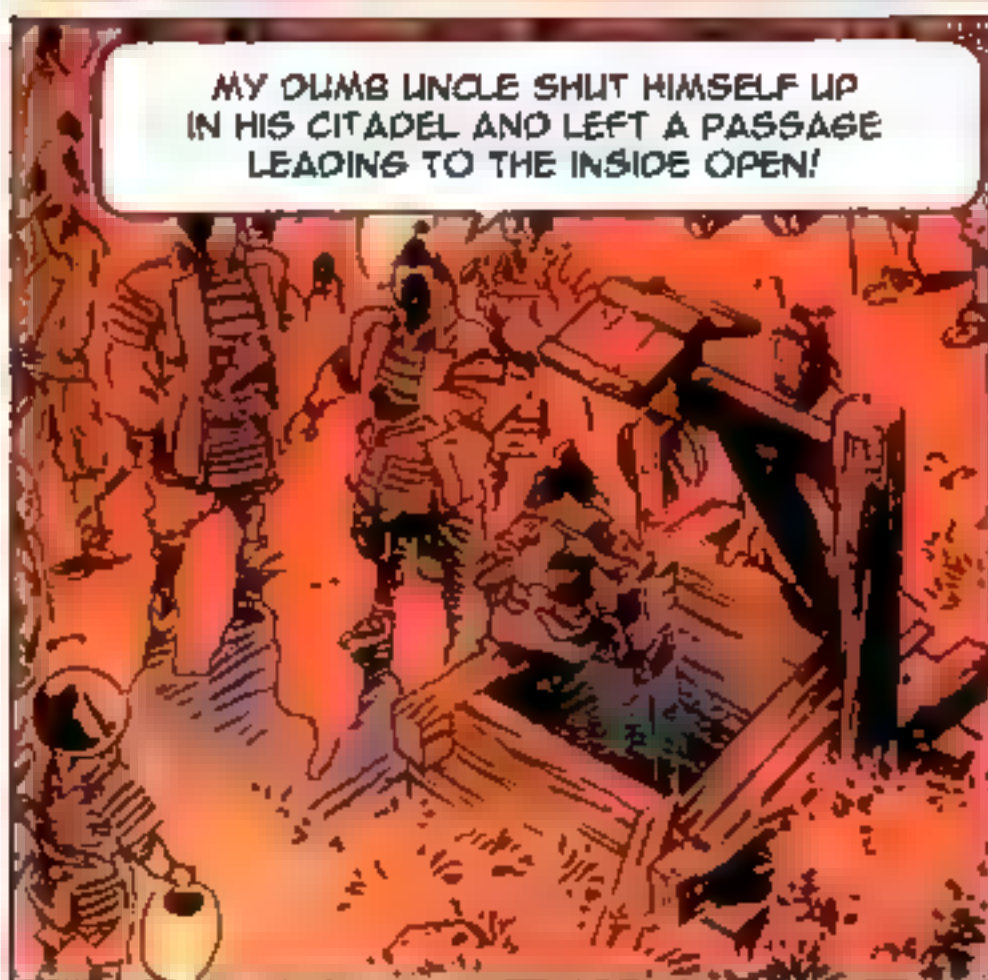


GUNSHOTS! THEY'RE
FIGHTING AT THE CASTLE...

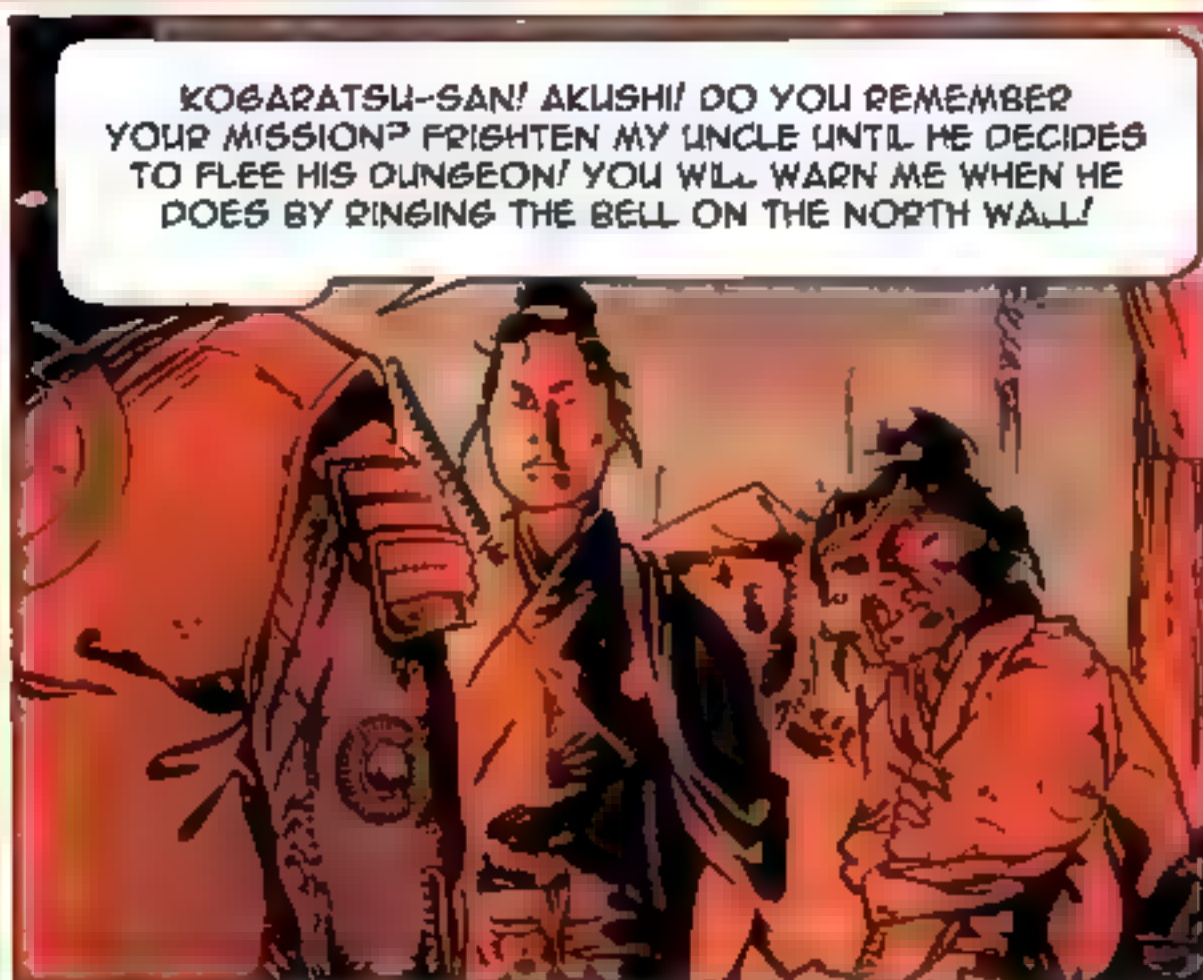
LET IT BE! IT'S DOESN'T
MATTER NOW...



IT'S TOO
GOOD TO
BE TRUE!



MY DUMB UNCLE SHUT HIMSELF UP
IN HIS CITADEL AND LEFT A PASSAGE
LEADING TO THE INSIDE OPEN!



KOGARATSU-SAN! AKUSHI! DO YOU REMEMBER
YOUR MISSION? FRIGHTEN MY UNCLE UNTIL HE DECIDES
TO FLEE HIS DUNGEON! YOU WILL WARN ME WHEN HE
DOES BY RINGING THE BELL ON THE NORTH WALL!

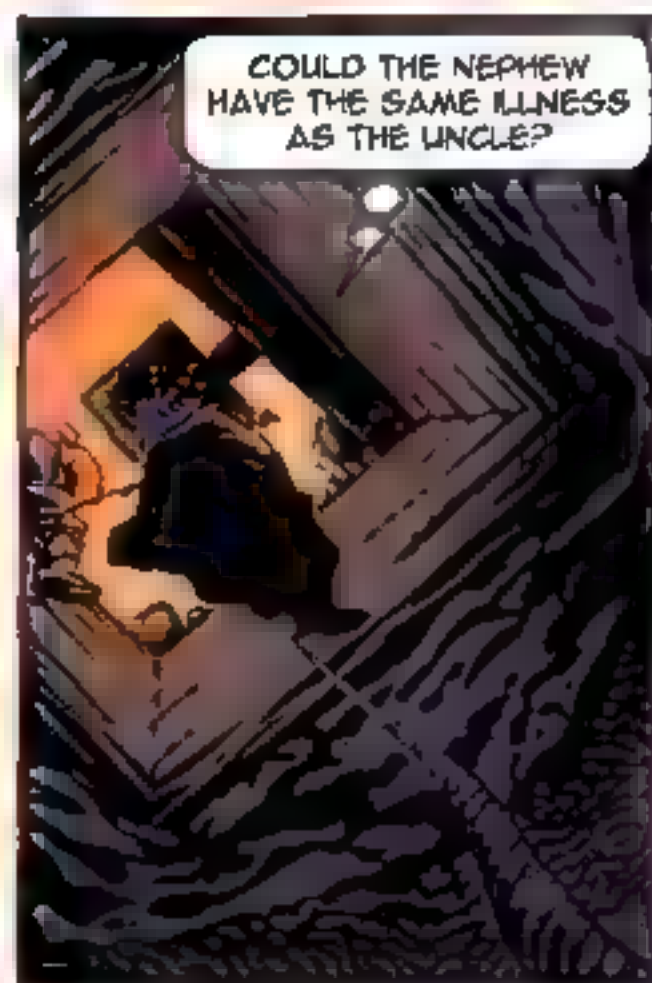


ALL WE'LL HAVE TO DO IS
MASSACRE ALL THOSE WHO
HAVE SURVIVED THE MADNESS
OF THEIR MASTER!

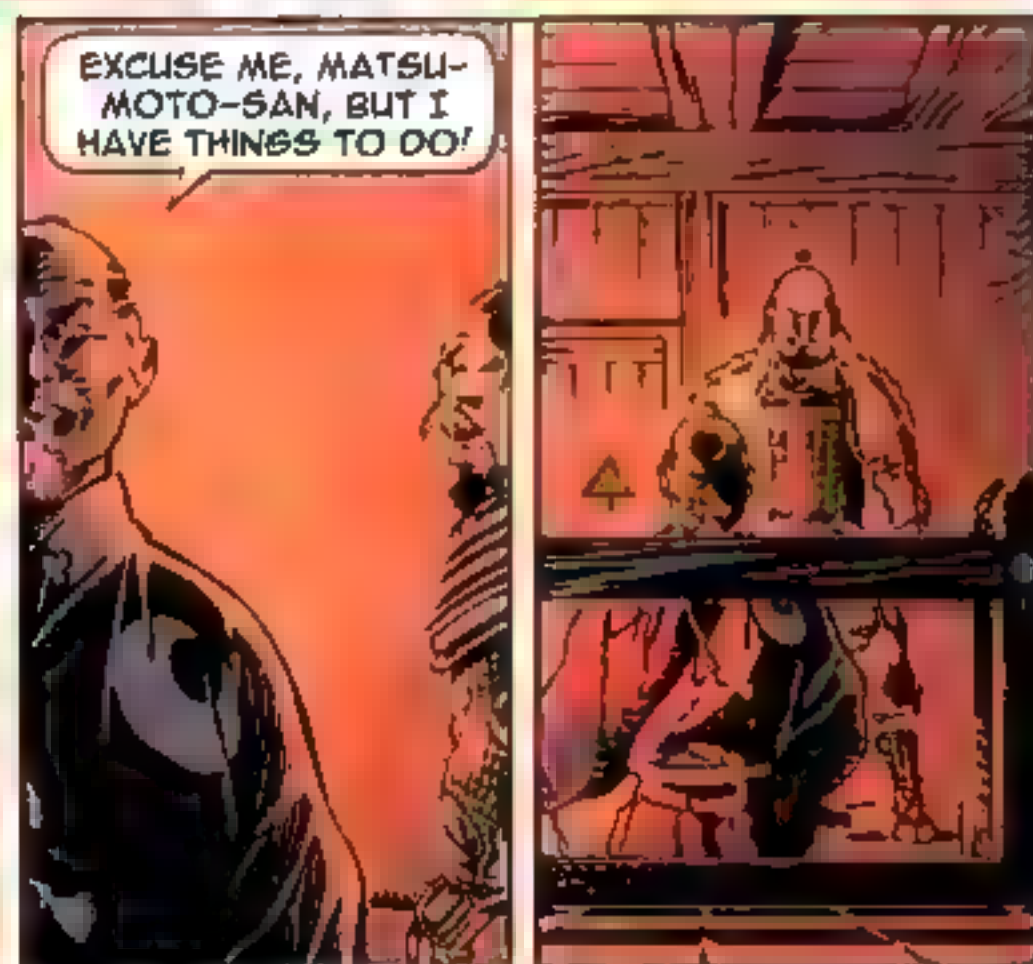
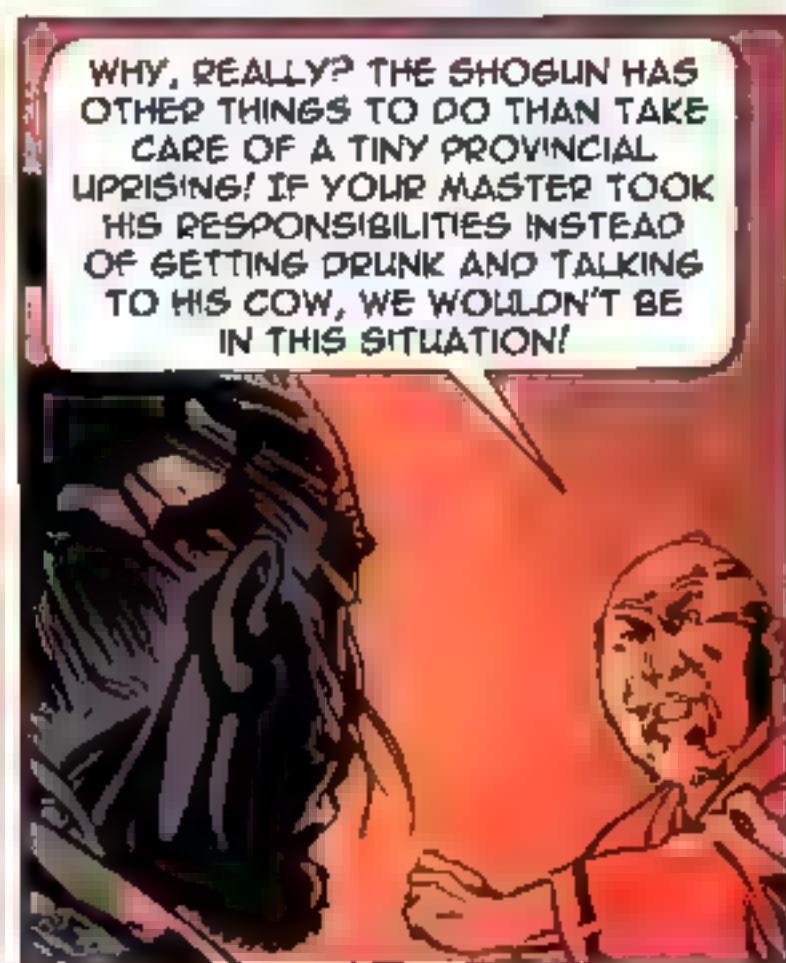
HA! HA! HA! HA!



...NOW,
GO!



COULD THE NEPHEW
HAVE THE SAME ILLNESS
AS THE UNCLE?



I UNDERSTAND
YOUR TROUBLE,
MATSUMOTO-SAN..



YOUR MASTER APPEARS
OVERWHELMED BY EVENTS
AND YOU, AS A LOYAL
SAMURAI, EVEN THOUGH
YOU CAN SEE HIS LACK OF
GOOD SENSE, CONTINUE
TO OBEY HIM!



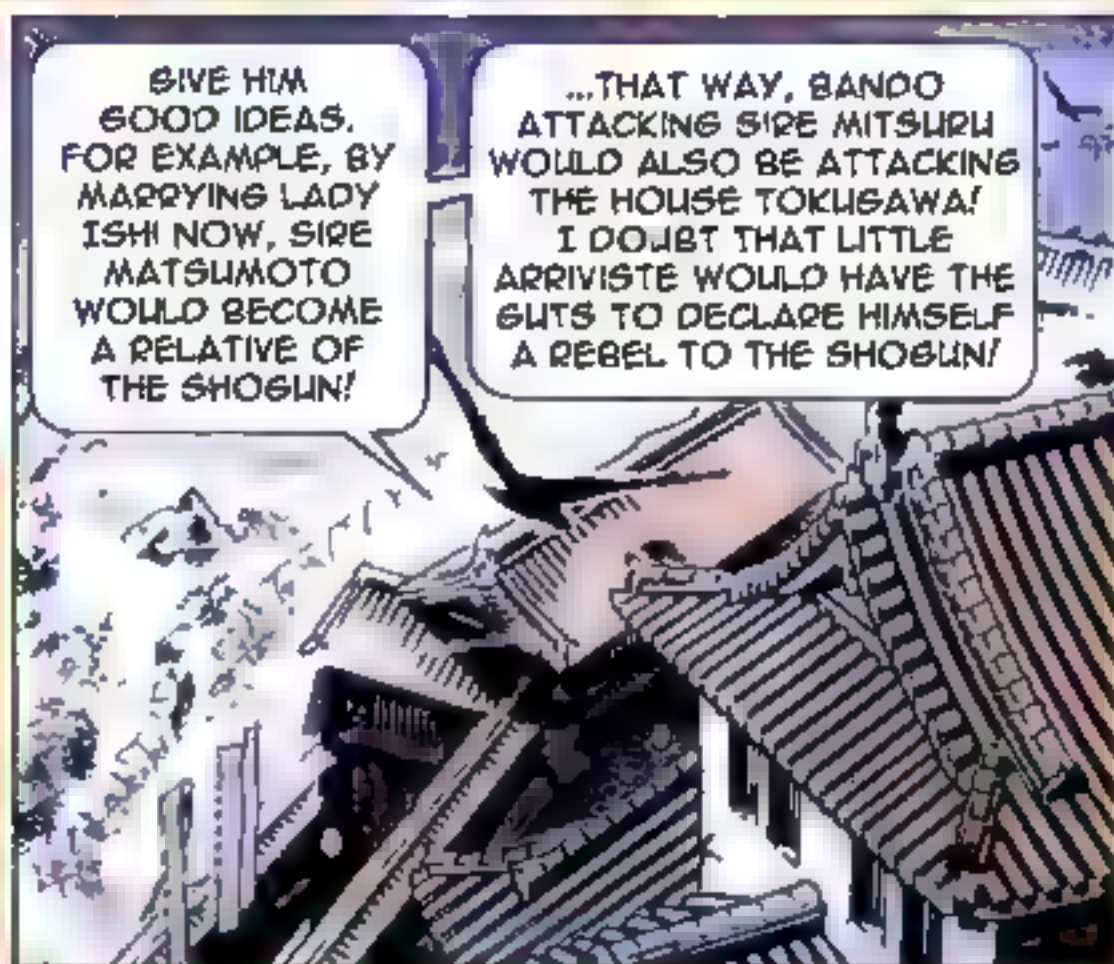
I HAVE
A LOT OF
ADMIRATION
FOR YOU...
HOWEVER,
DO NOT ACT
STUPIDLY
OUT OF
LOYALTY.



YOU HAVE TO GUIDE SIRE
MITSURU'S CHOICES! YOU
DON'T HAVE TO OFFICIALLY
TAKE THE LEAD, YOU CAN
WHISPER AT HIS EAR WHAT
HE SHOULD DO... THERE
WOULD BE NO SHAME IN
INFLUENCING YOUR MASTER
IF IT WAS TO TRY TO
SAVE HIM.



GIVE HIM
GOOD IDEAS.
FOR EXAMPLE, BY
MARRYING LADY
ISHI NOW, SIRE
MATSUMOTO
WOULD BECOME
A RELATIVE OF
THE SHOGUN!



...THAT WAY, BANDO
ATTACKING SIRE MITSURU
WOULD ALSO BE ATTACKING
THE HOUSE TOKUSAWA!
I DOUBT THAT LITTLE
ARRIVISTE WOULD HAVE THE
GUTS TO DECLARE HIMSELF
A REBEL TO THE SHOGUN!

KIMENABE-SAN!
HOW CAN I THANK
YOUR YOUR
IDEA IS SIMPLY
BRILLIANT!

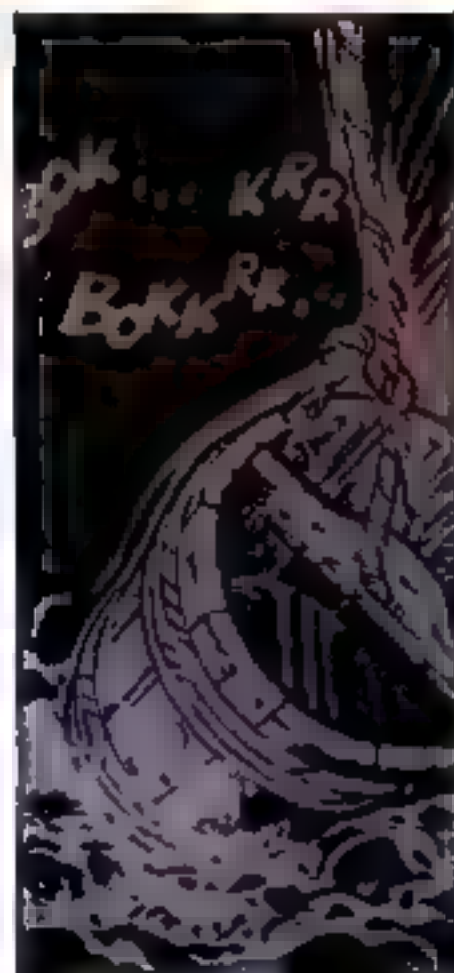
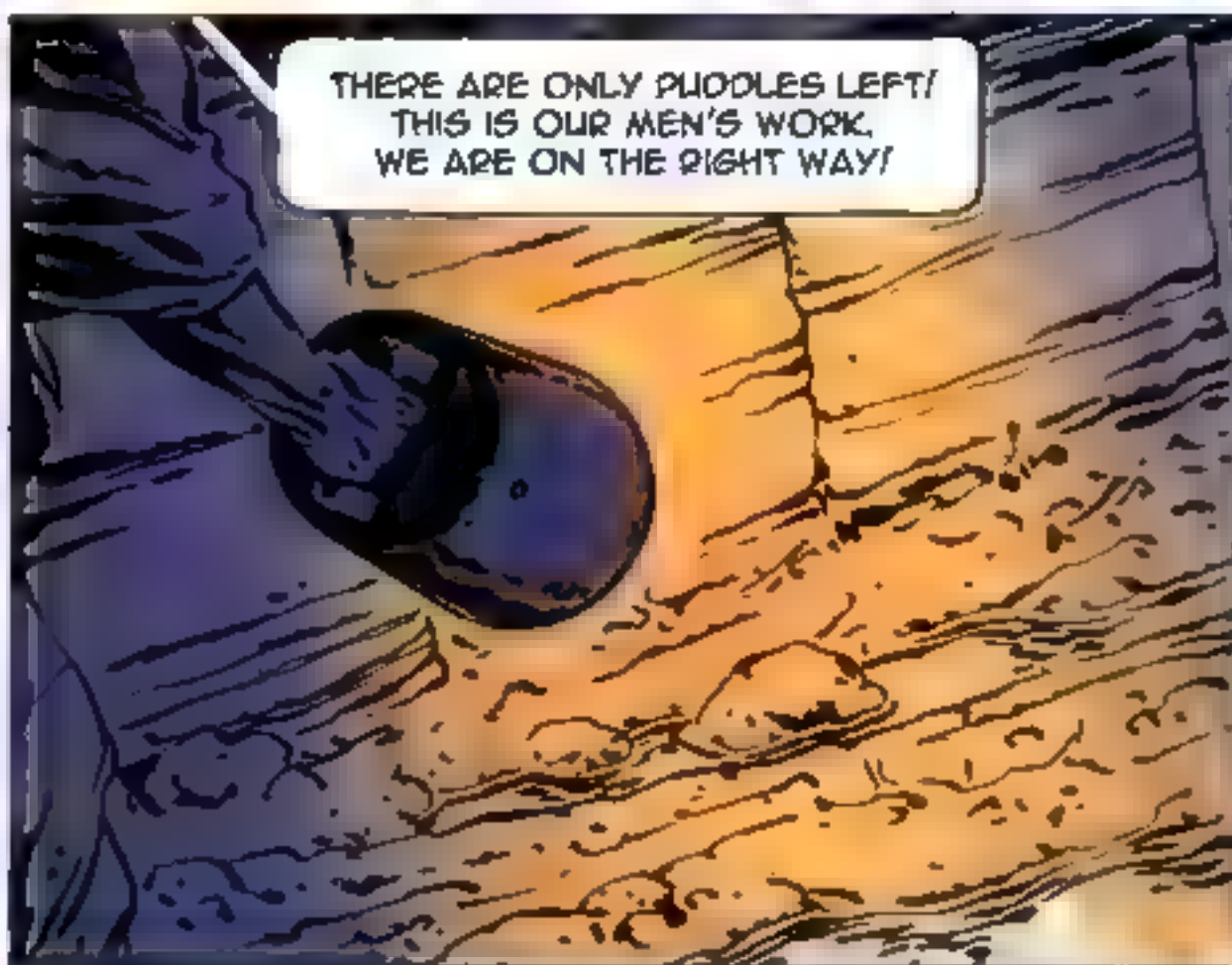


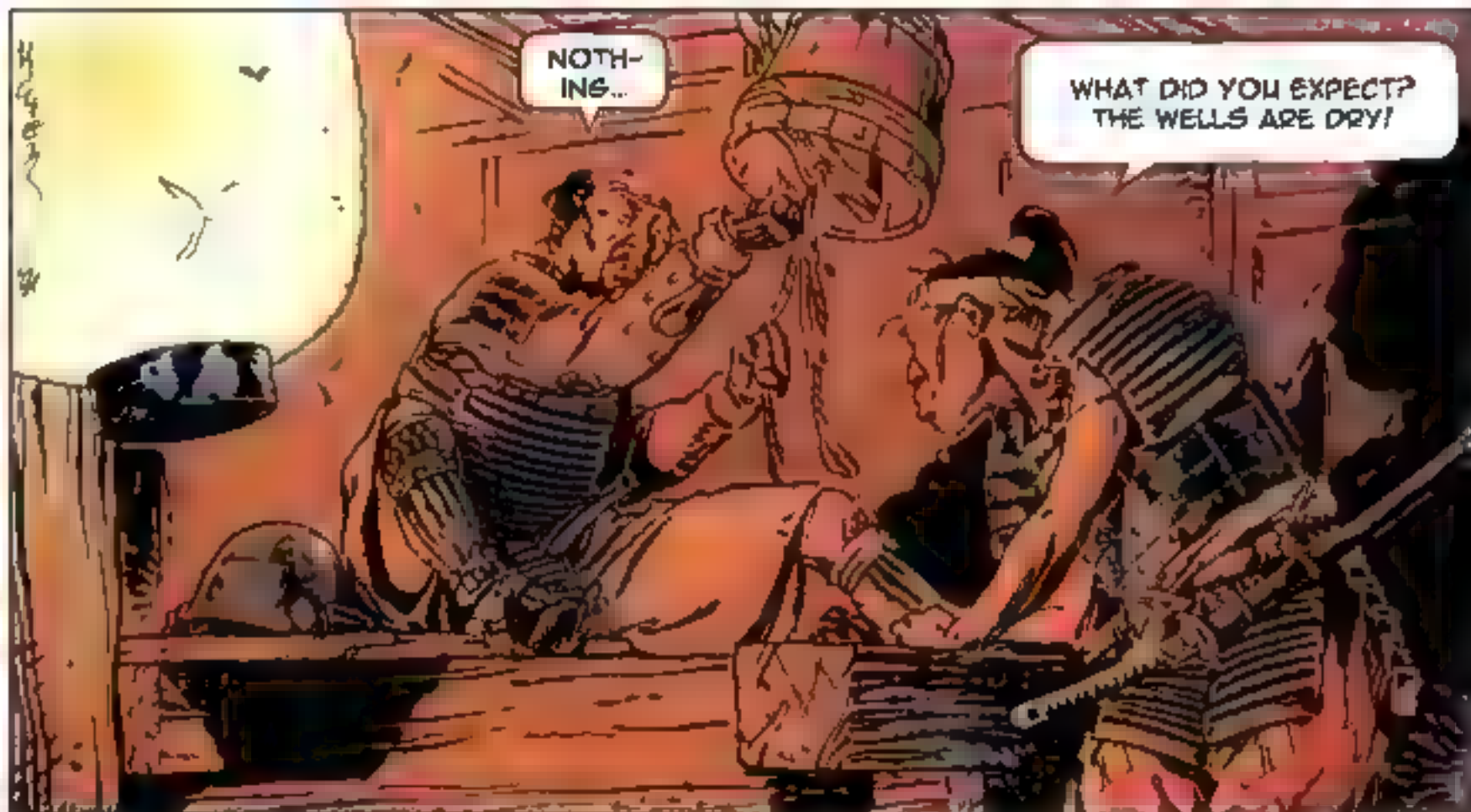
...I'M GOING TO SHARE
IT WITH SIRE MITSURU
IMMEDIATELY!



THERE WE GO .. THIS
IS HOW MEN ARE
CONTROLLED. YOU
ONLY HAVE TO
WHISPER WHAT YOU
WANT THEM TO SAY
OUT LOUD. VANITY!







NOTHING...

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? THE WELLS ARE DRY!



MY TONGUE IS SWOLLEN, AND AS DRY AS CEMENT...

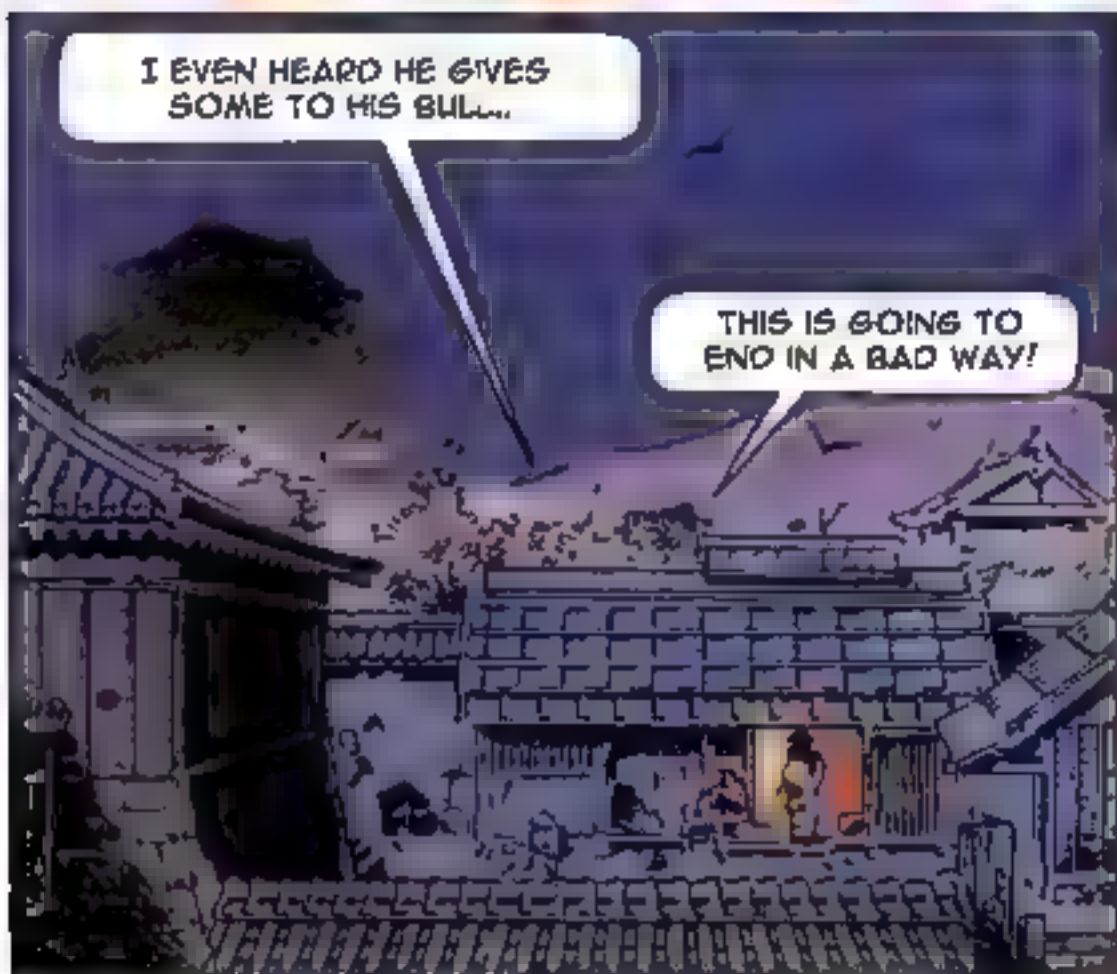
IF ONLY IT COULD RAIN...



...WE ...WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE! ...OR WE'LL BECOME MAD, LIKE SIRE MITSURU!



AT LEAST, HE'S NOT THIRSTY! HE EMPTIED ALL THE RESERVES OF SAKE!

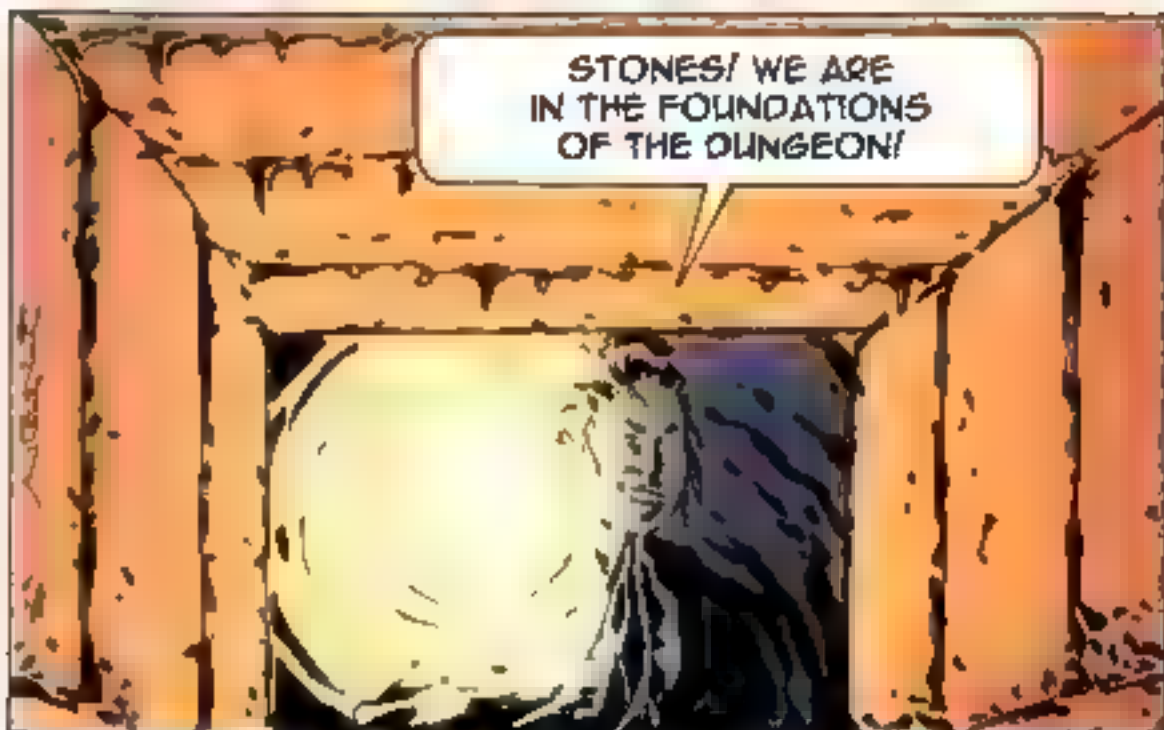
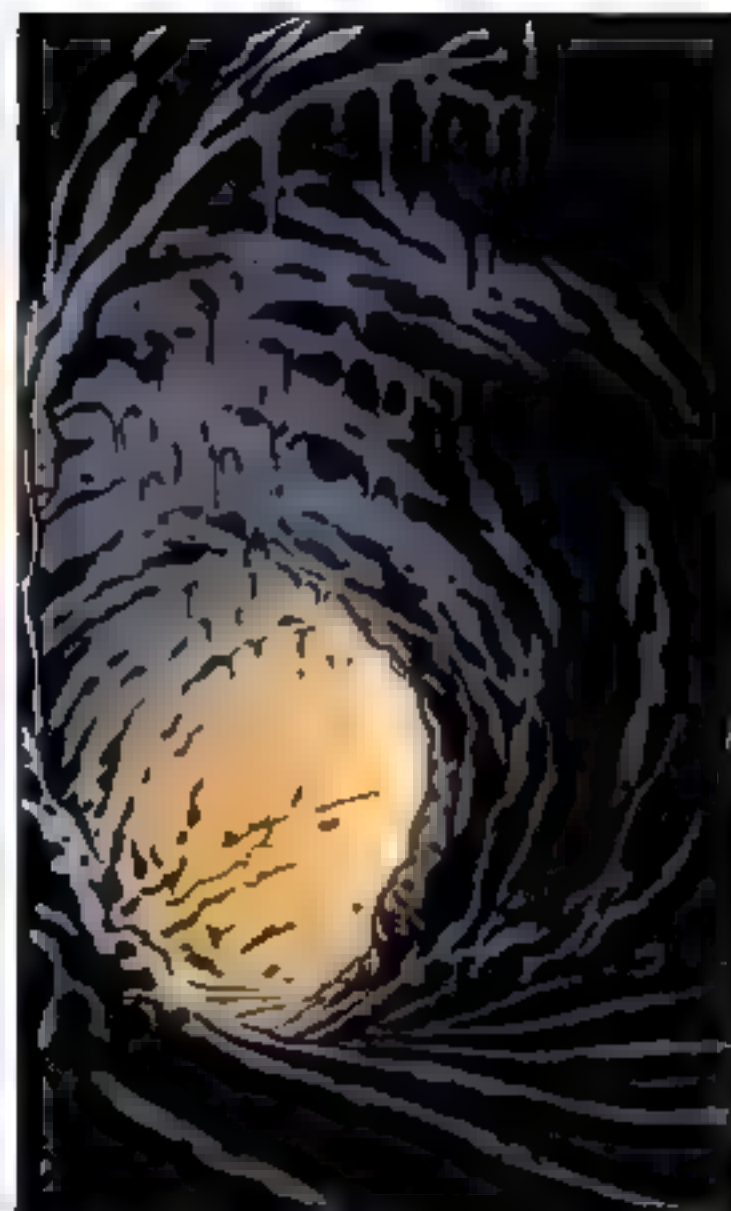


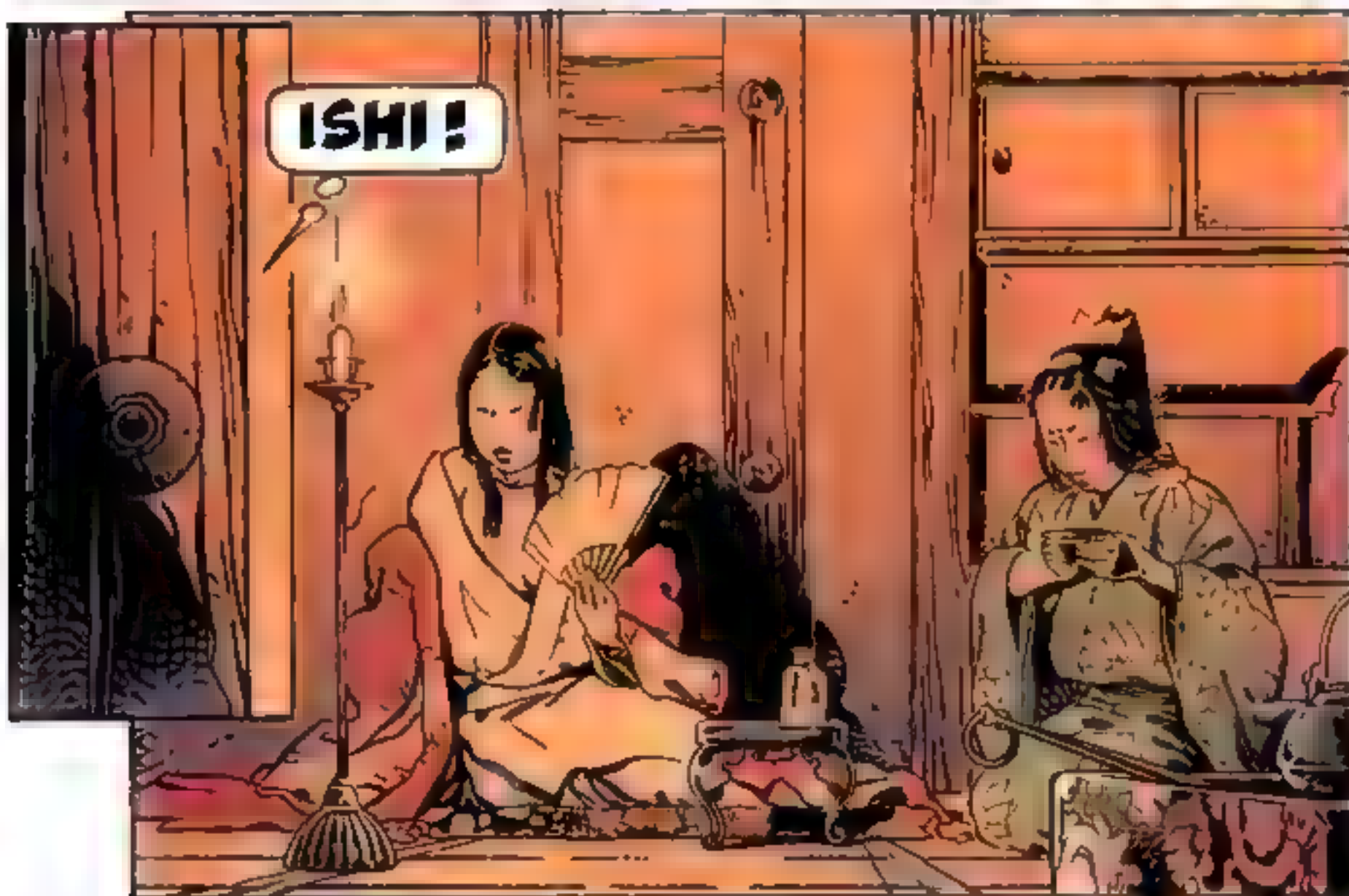
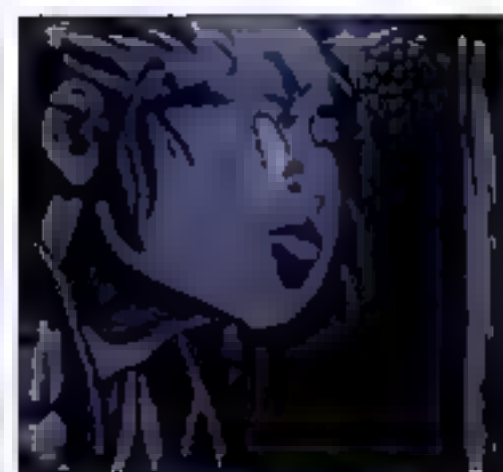
I EVEN HEARD HE GIVES SOME TO HIS BULL...

THIS IS GOING TO END IN A BAD WAY!



WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE BECAUSE OF THAT FAT PIG!

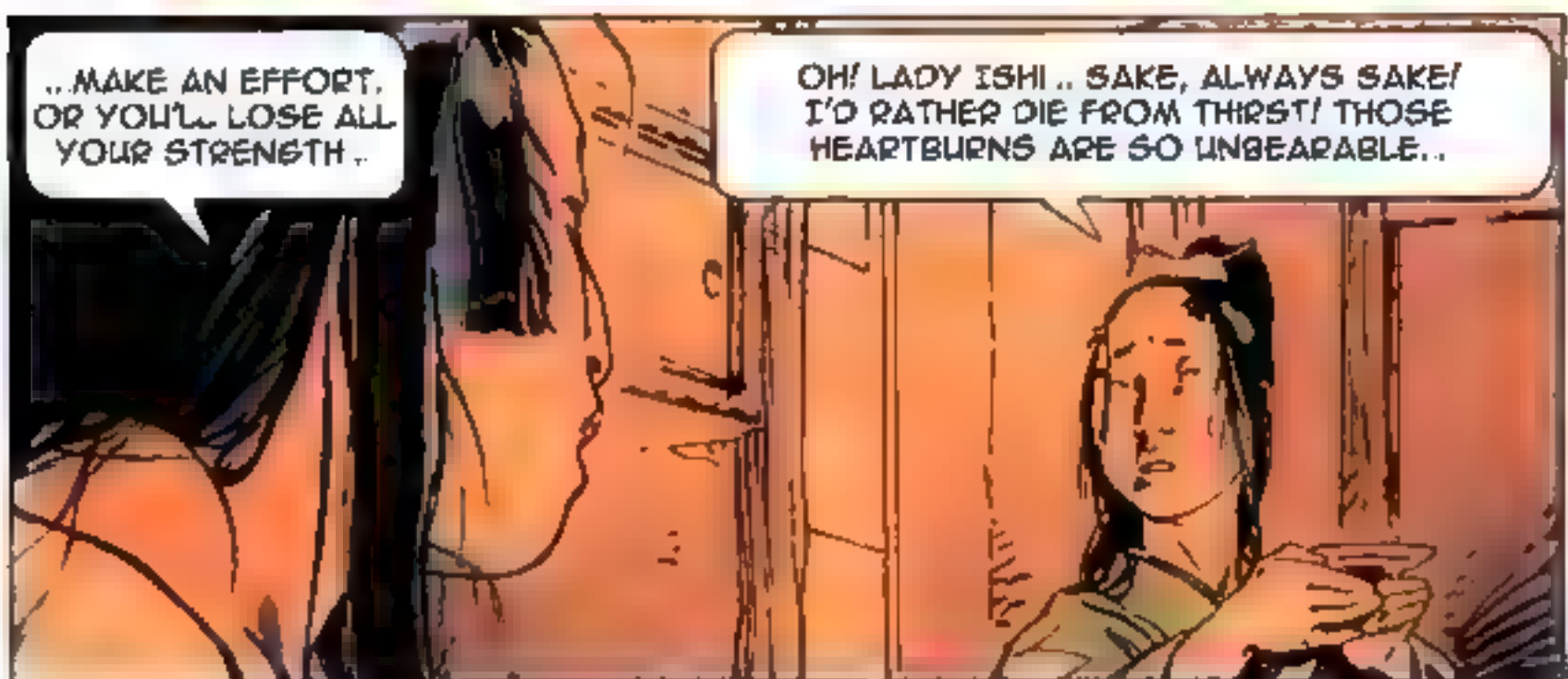




ISHI!

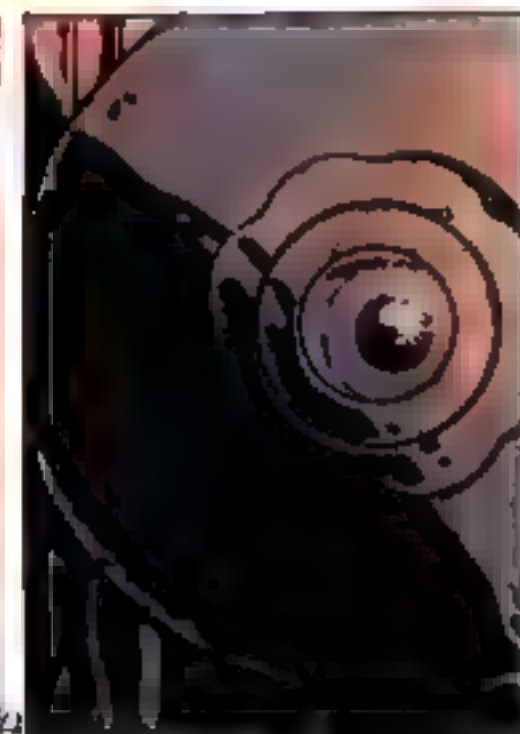


COME ON, SHINO...



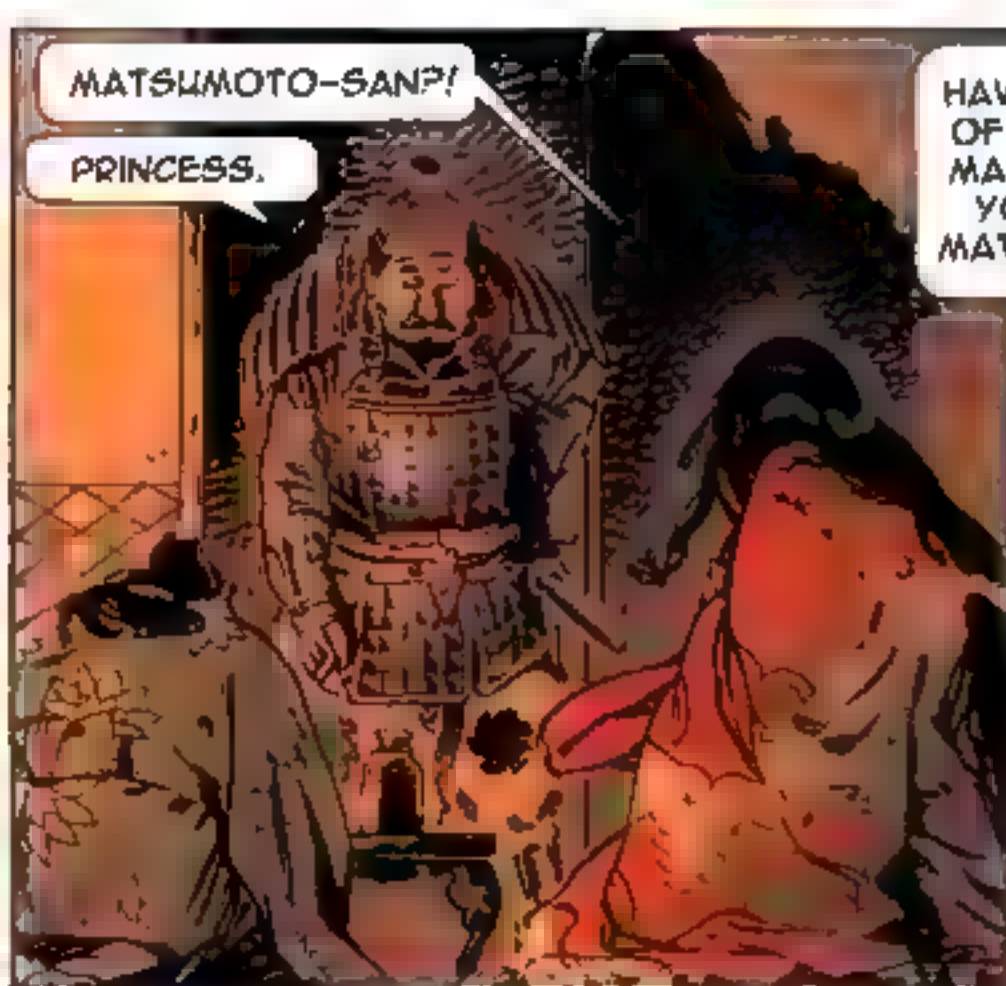
.. MAKE AN EFFORT, OR YOU'LL LOSE ALL YOUR STRENGTH..

OH! LADY ISHI.. SAKE, ALWAYS SAKE! I'D RATHER DIE FROM THIRST! THOSE HEARTBURNS ARE SO UNBEARABLE..





!?



MATSUMOTO-SAN?!

PRINCESS.



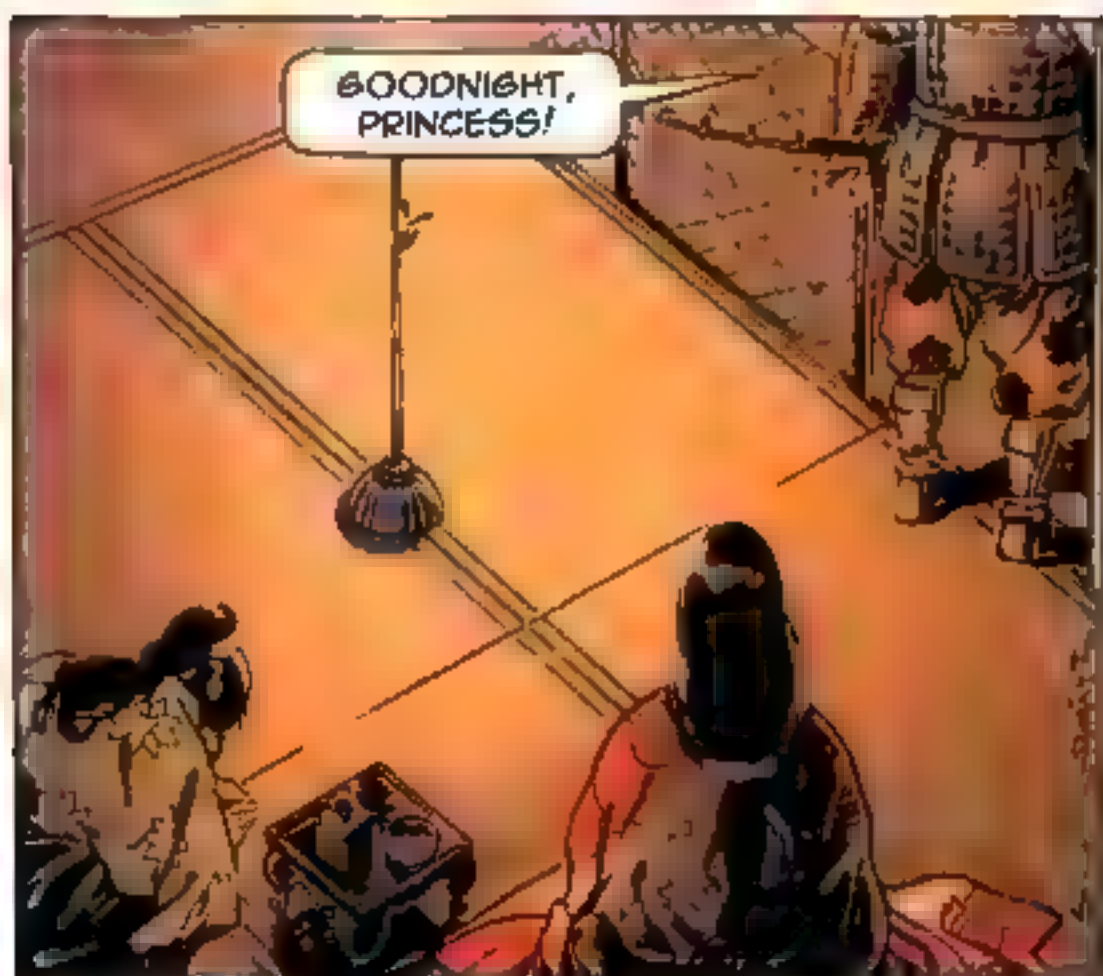
HAVE THE COMPANY OF THOSE GUARDS MADE YOU FORGET YOUR MANNERS, MATSUMOTO-SAN?!



THE GOOD NEWS I AM CARRYING ALLOWS ME TO BE IMPUDENT, PRINCESS... OUR LORD HAS DECIDED THAT THE WEDDING WILL TAKE PLACE EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY PLANNED...



THE PADRE WILL BE HERE SOON TO PREPARE YOU ACCORDING TO THE NAMBAN RITES ..



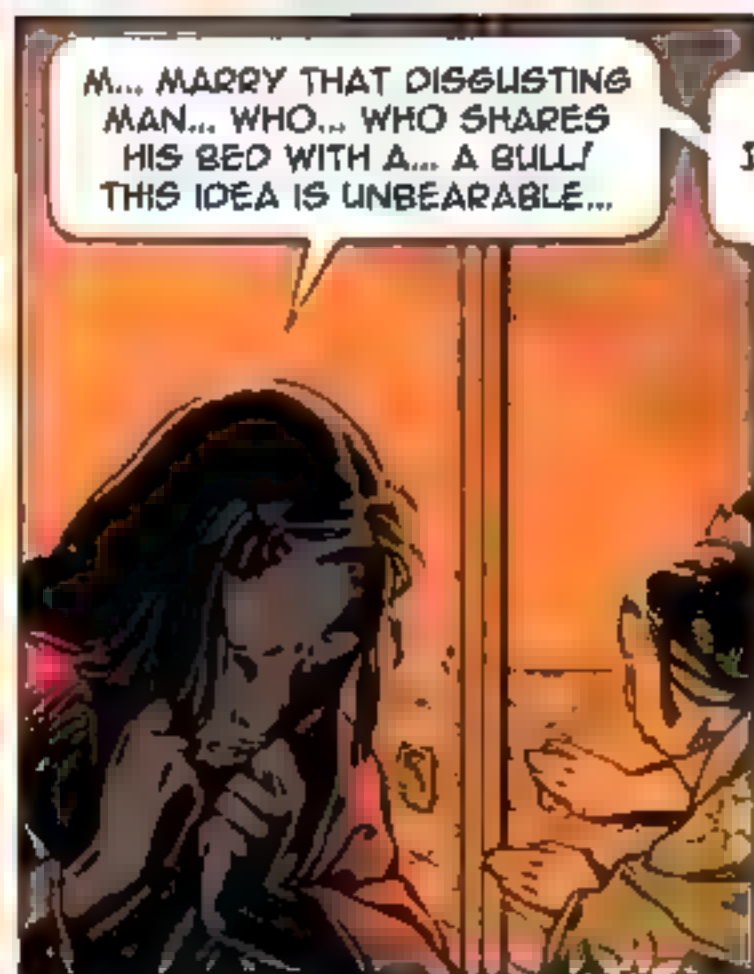
GOODNIGHT, PRINCESS!



...THE CEREMONY WILL BE HELD TOMORROW!



I KNEW SUCH NEWS WOULD FILL YOU WITH HAPPINESS!

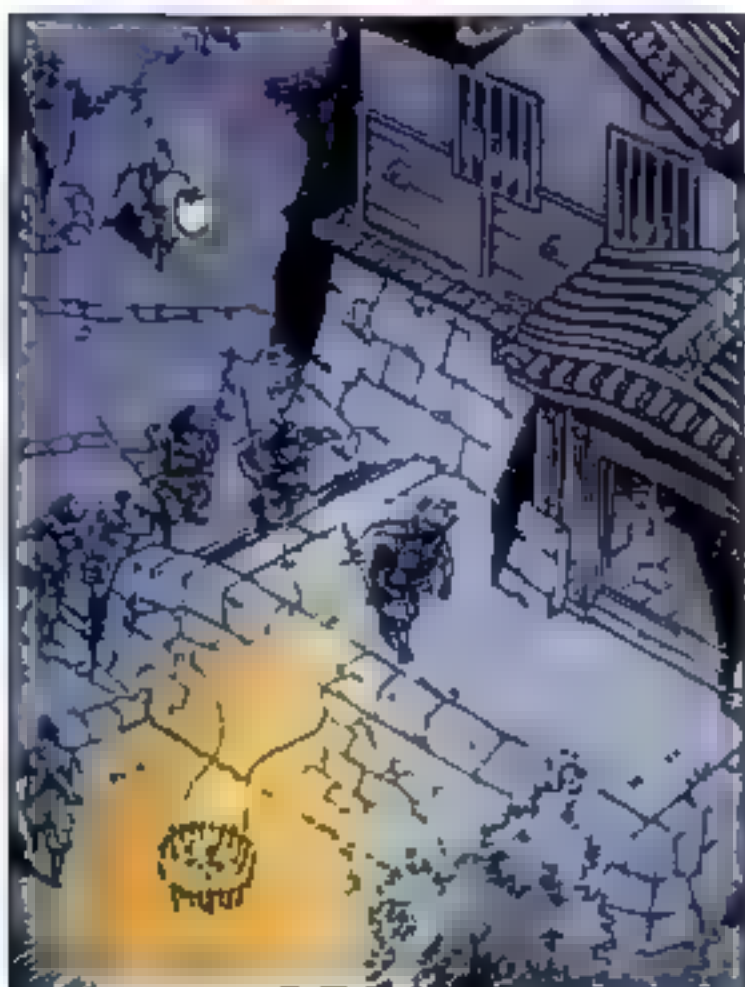
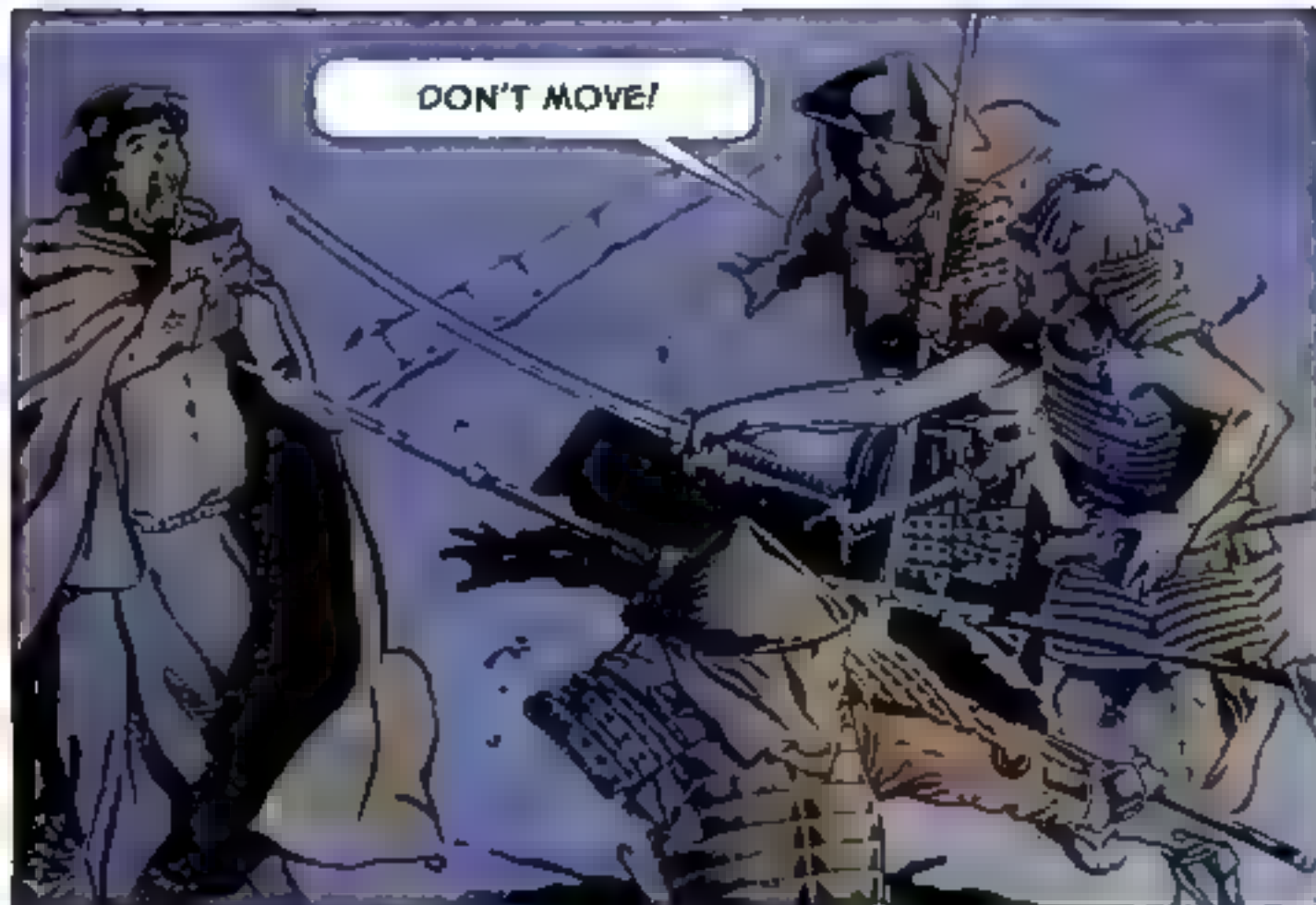


M... MARRY THAT DISGUSTING MAN... WHO... WHO SHARES HIS BED WITH A... A BULL! THIS IDEA IS UNBEARABLE...



I'D RATHER DIE!

ACT!





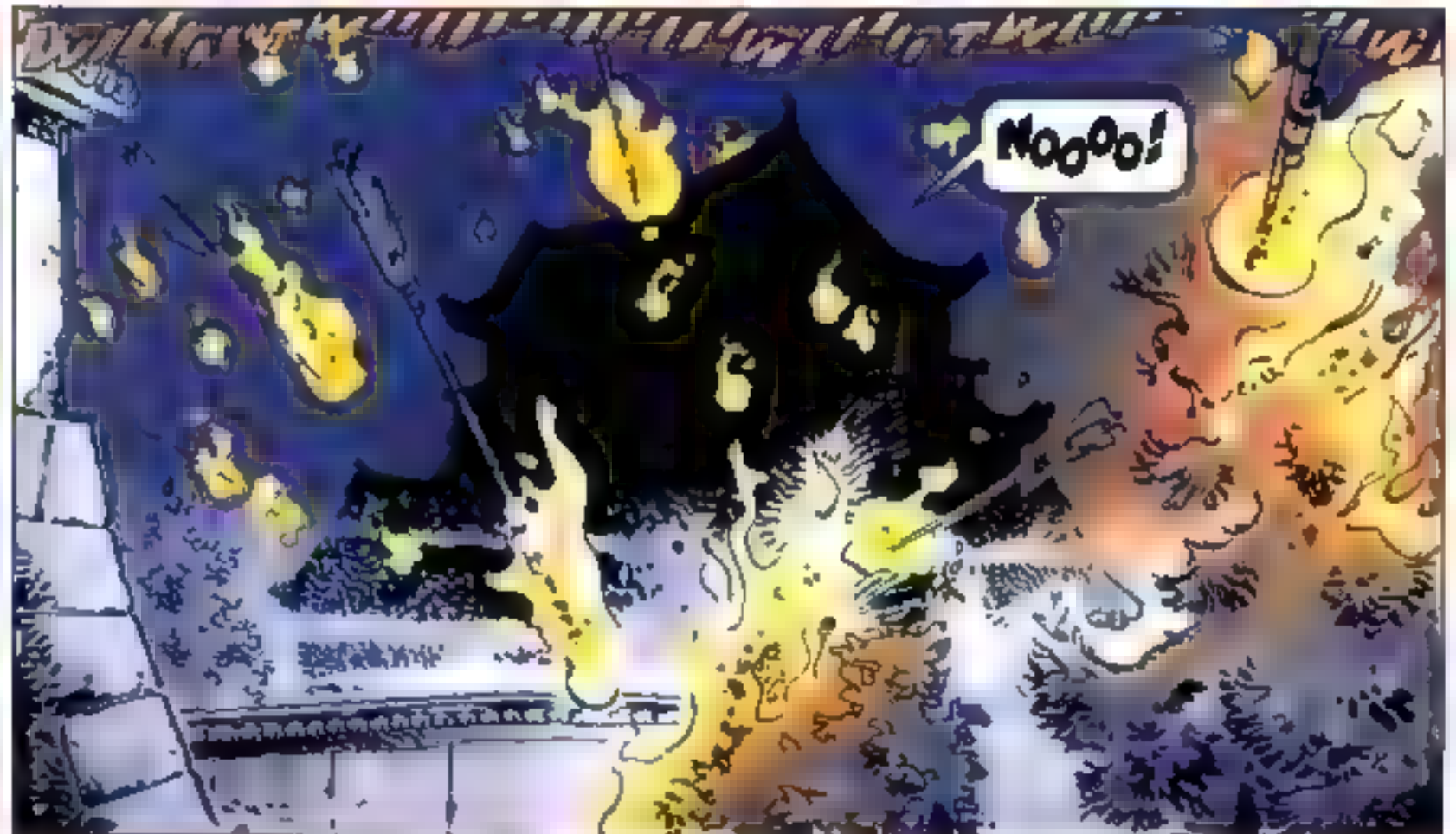
LISTEN TO THOSE CRY OF ANGUISH
RISING FROM THE SHIRO AND ECHOING
INTO THE NIGHT... THERE IS NO MUSIC
SOFTER TO MY EARS...



THIS IS PROBABLY
THE SIGNAL OF
THAT DEMON
OF KOGARATSU,
BUNKA-SAN,
PROCEED ACCORD-
ING TO THE PLAN.



?! LOOK!



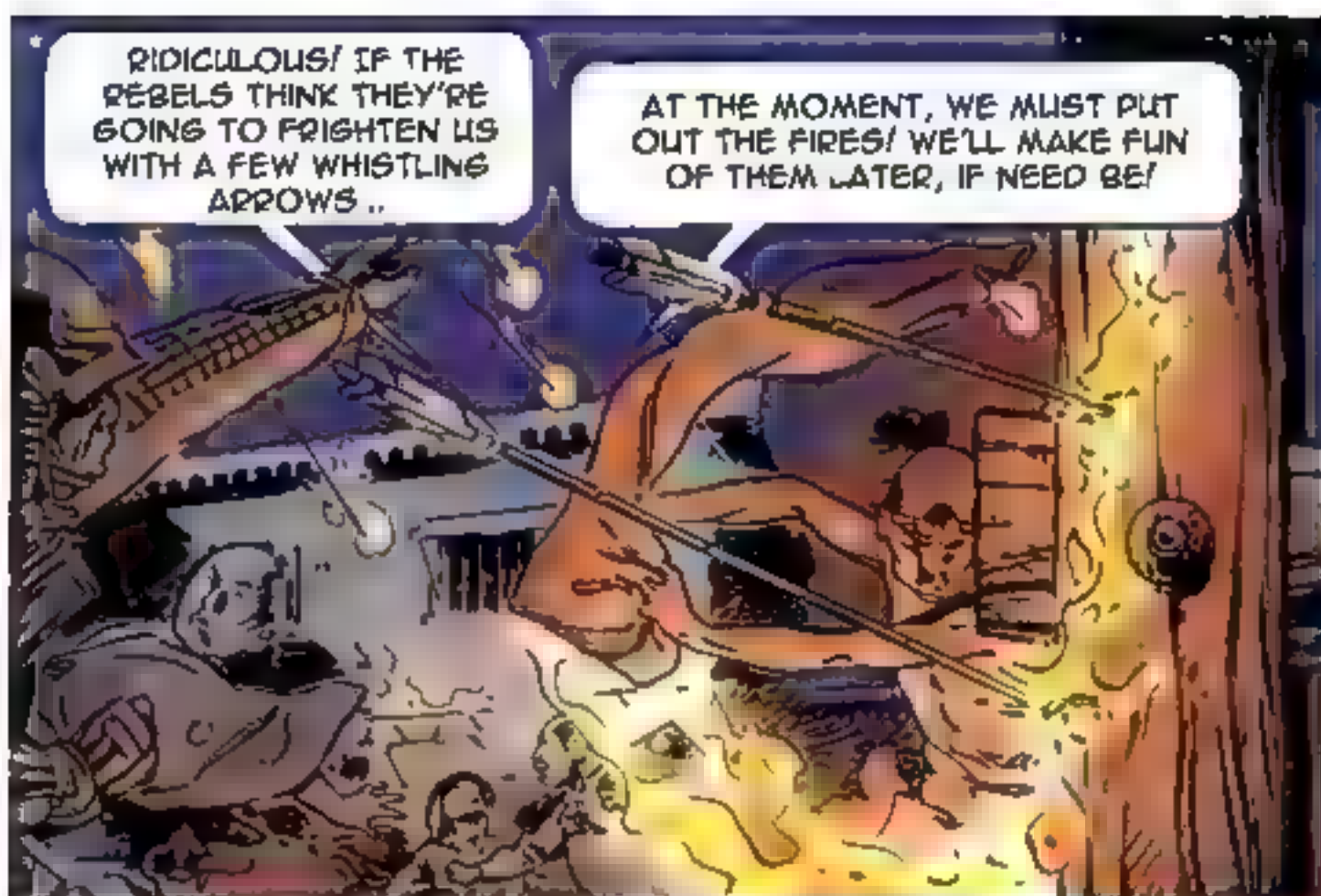
Noooo!



IT'S... THE RAIN OF FIRE!
JUDGEMENT DAY! HAA! HAAAA!

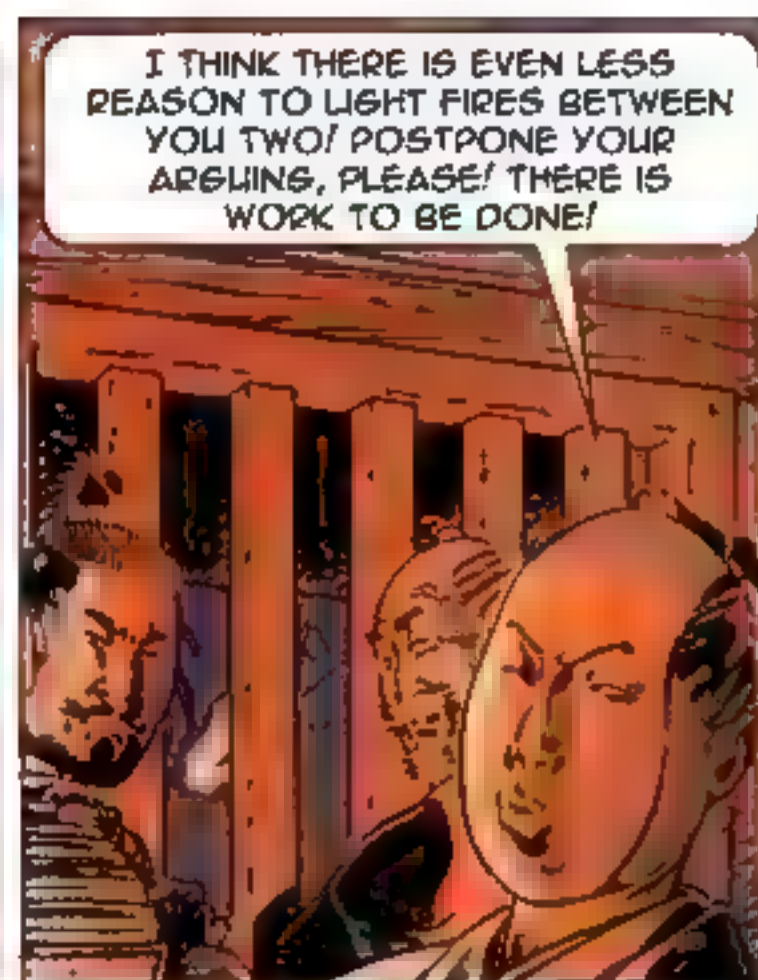


THE KIRISHITO
WAS RIGHT! IT WAS
IN HIS BOOK!



RIDICULOUS! IF THE REBELS THINK THEY'RE GOING TO FRIGHTEN US WITH A FEW WHISTLING ARROWS ..

AT THE MOMENT, WE MUST PUT OUT THE FIRES! WE'LL MAKE FUN OF THEM LATER, IF NEED BE!



I THINK THERE IS EVEN LESS REASON TO LIGHT FIRES BETWEEN YOU TWO! POSTPONE YOUR ARGUING, PLEASE! THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE!



NO... NO! DON'T COME CLOSER! YOU ARE ALL TRAITORS! AND THE KIRISHITO'S THE WORST!



...HE LEFT ME... AND NOW... NOW IT'S RAINING FIRE! AND THE DEAD, THEY... THEY...



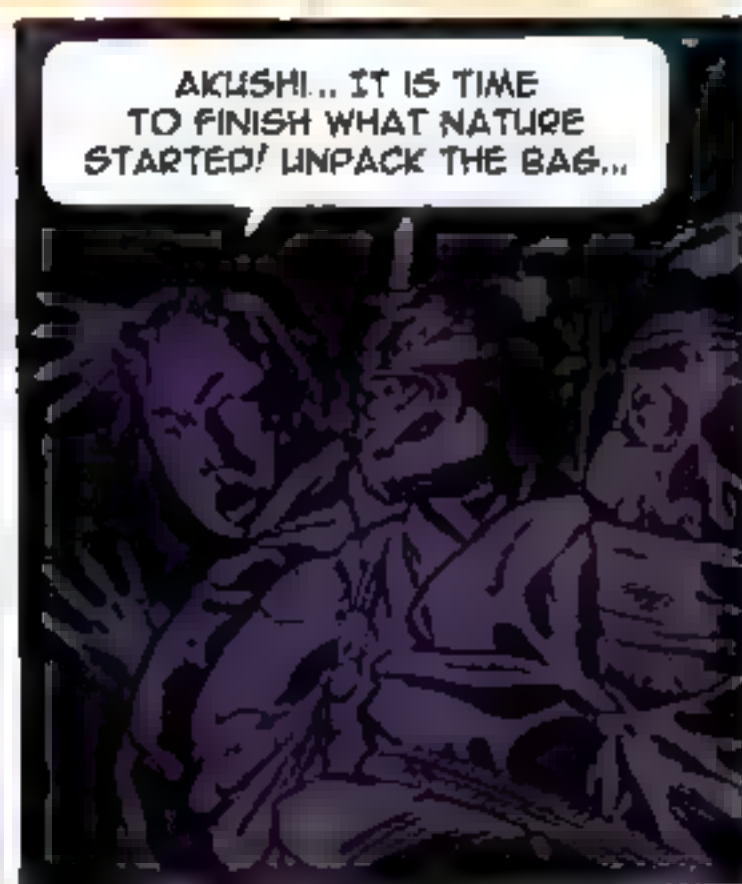
I... I CAN FEEL THEM... I CAN HEAR THEM, CRAWLING OUTSIDE IN THE NIGHT! IT'S YOSHIDA WHO COMES BACK! DON'T LET HIM TAKE ME AWAY!



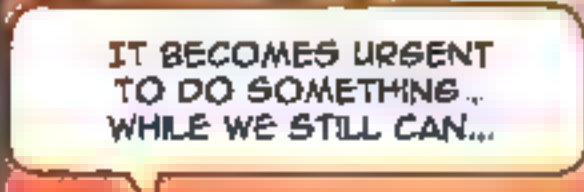
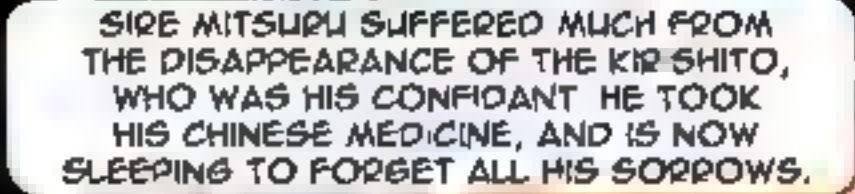
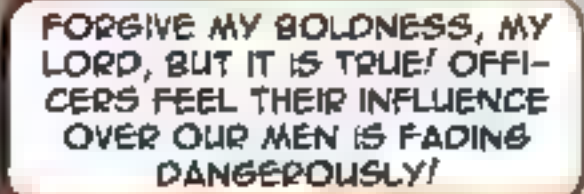
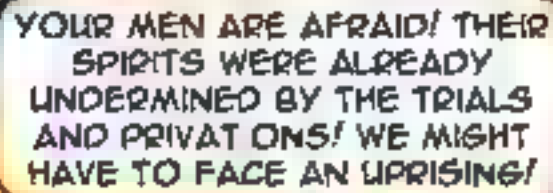
WOOO! HAAAAA!!!



MY LORD... CALM DOWN... YOU'RE HURTING YOURSELF!



AKUSHI.. IT IS TIME TO FINISH WHAT NATURE STARTED! UNPACK THE BAG...





THUNDER?!

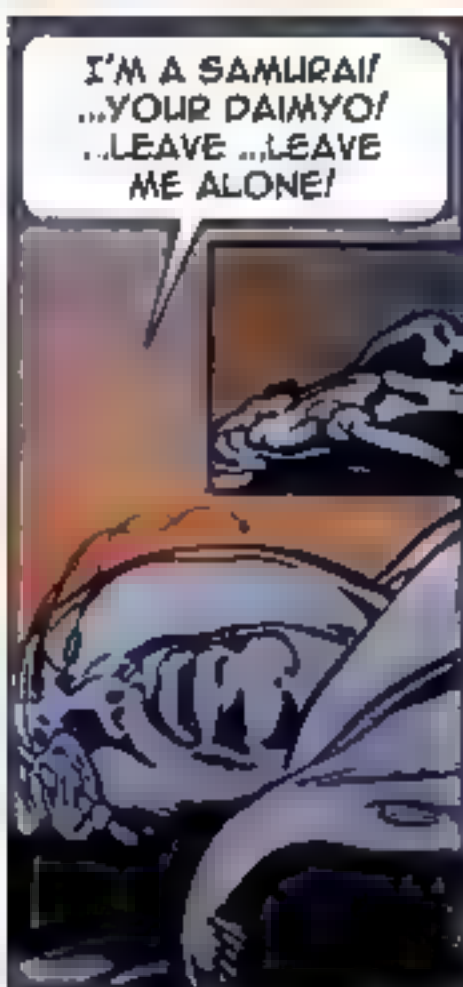
WE HAVE TO HURRY!
IF IT RAINS, EVERY-
THING WILL BE LOST!



LET'S HOPE
IT WORKS...



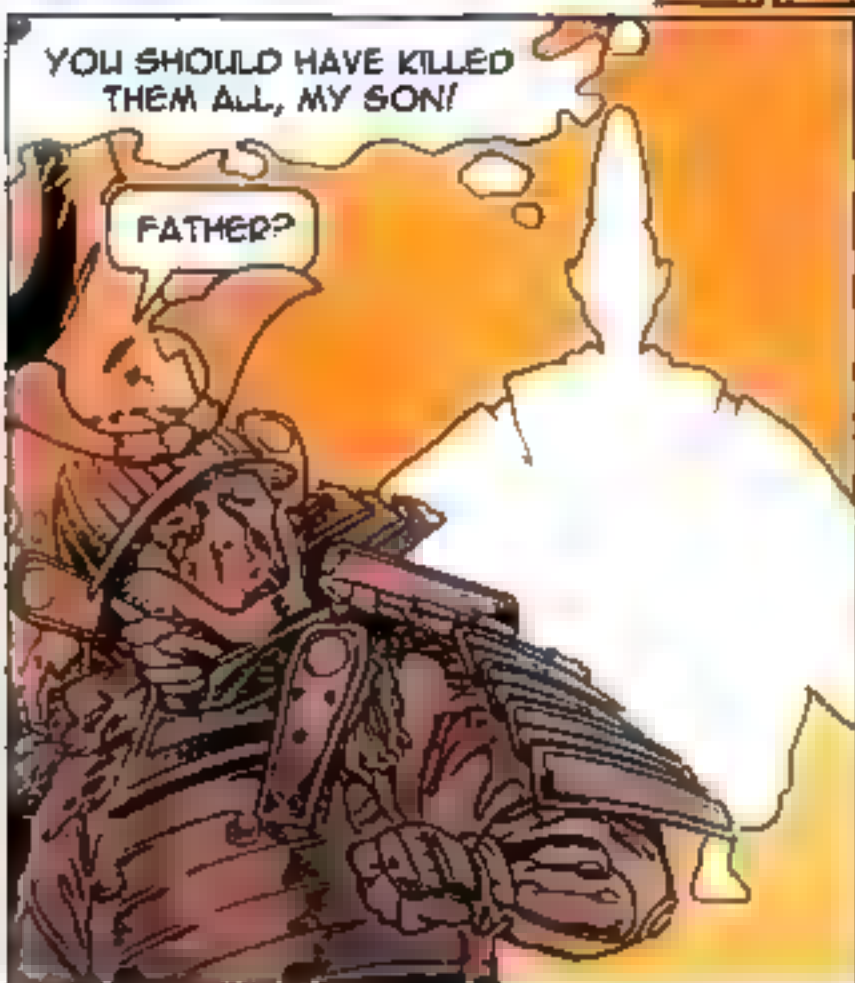
N.. NO!
DON'T...



I'M A SAMURAI!
...YOUR DAIMYO!
...LEAVE ...LEAVE
ME ALONE!



...I AM YOUR DAIMYO! ...YOU
MUST REMAIN LOYAL TO ME!

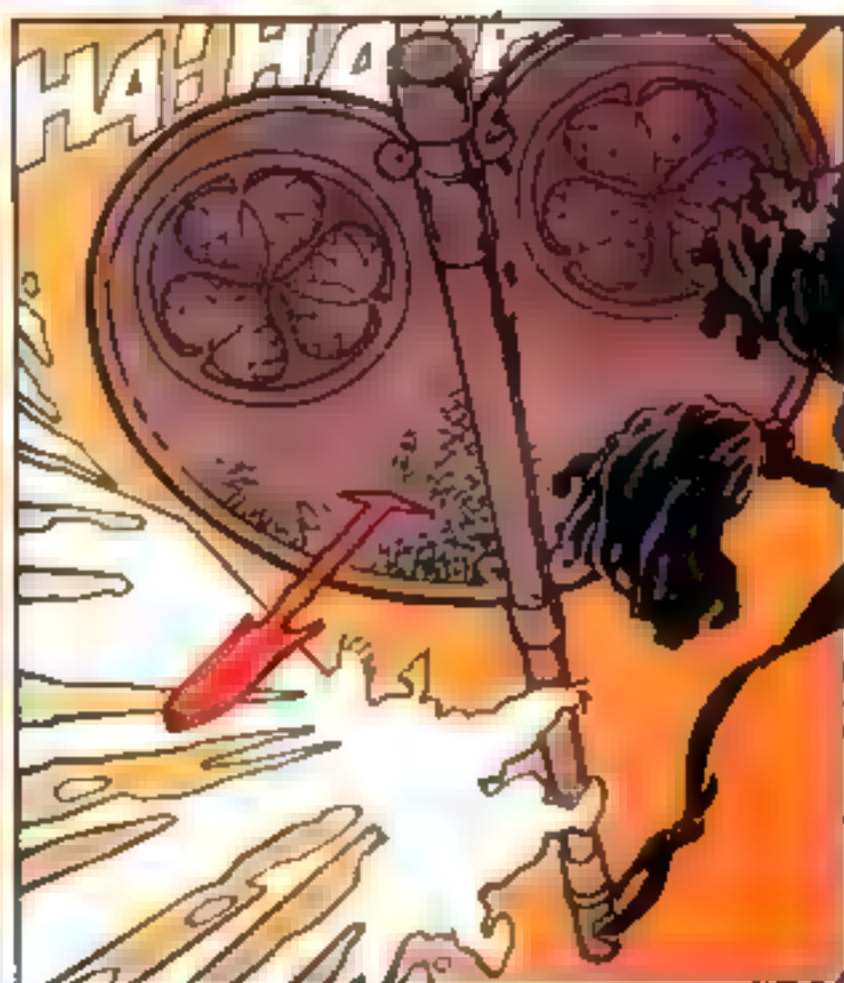


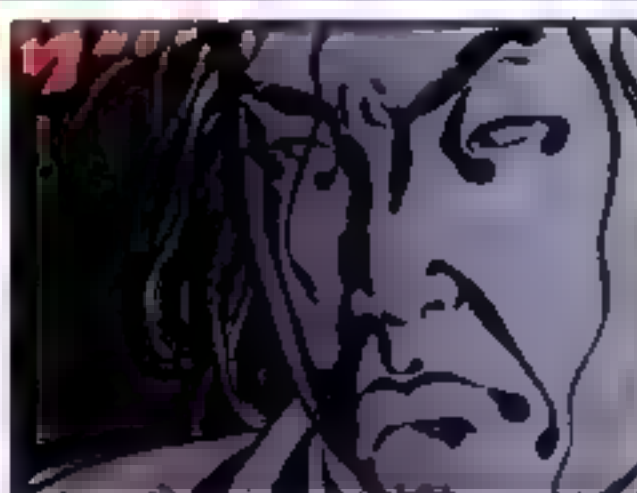
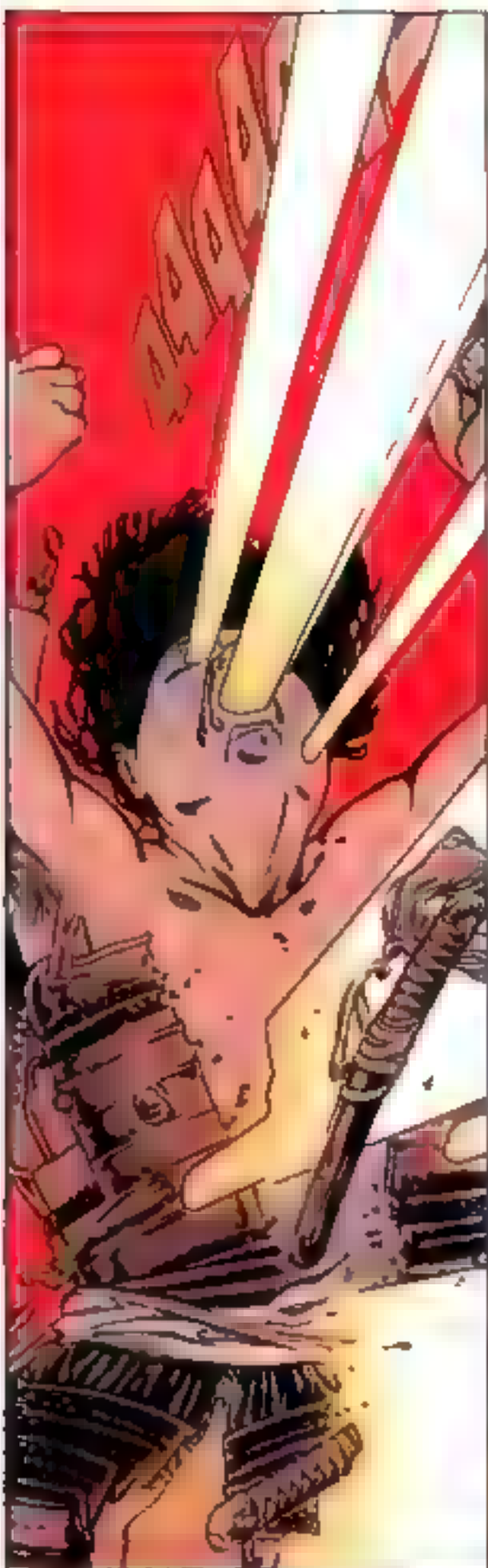
YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED
THEM ALL, MY SON!

FATHER?



LOOK BEHIND YOU!
YOU ARE LOST!





"TREACHERY IS TAKING
MY LIFE."
"A BLOOD LOTUS HAS
BLOOMED WITHIN MY CHEST."

"FLOWER PLANTED BY A
SUPERB BLADE!"

YO...YOSHIDA!

NO!
LEAVE!

I JUST WANT TO
SHOW YOU SOMETHING,
DEAR BROTHER!

ASSASSIN!

IT WASN'T ME!
...NO! I DIDN'T
WANT YOU TO
DIE, BROTHER!
LEAVE ME!

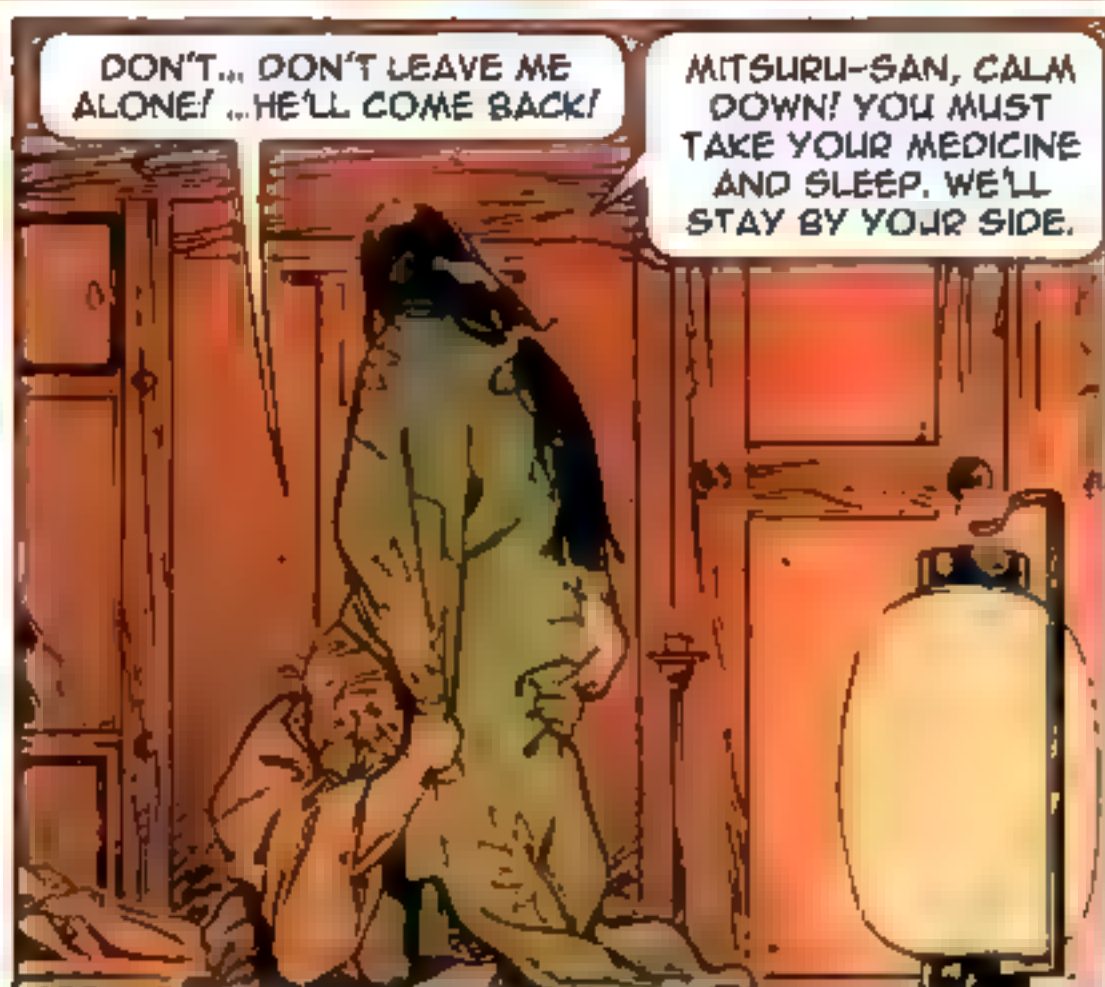


MY LORD!?



IT'S NOTHING!
NOTHING... ONLY A
BAD DREAM!

LEAVE US! WE'LL
BE ALRIGHT



DON'T... DON'T LEAVE ME
ALONE! ...HE'LL COME BACK!

MITSURU-SAN, CALM
DOWN! YOU MUST
TAKE YOUR MEDICINE
AND SLEEP. WE'LL
STAY BY YOUR SIDE.



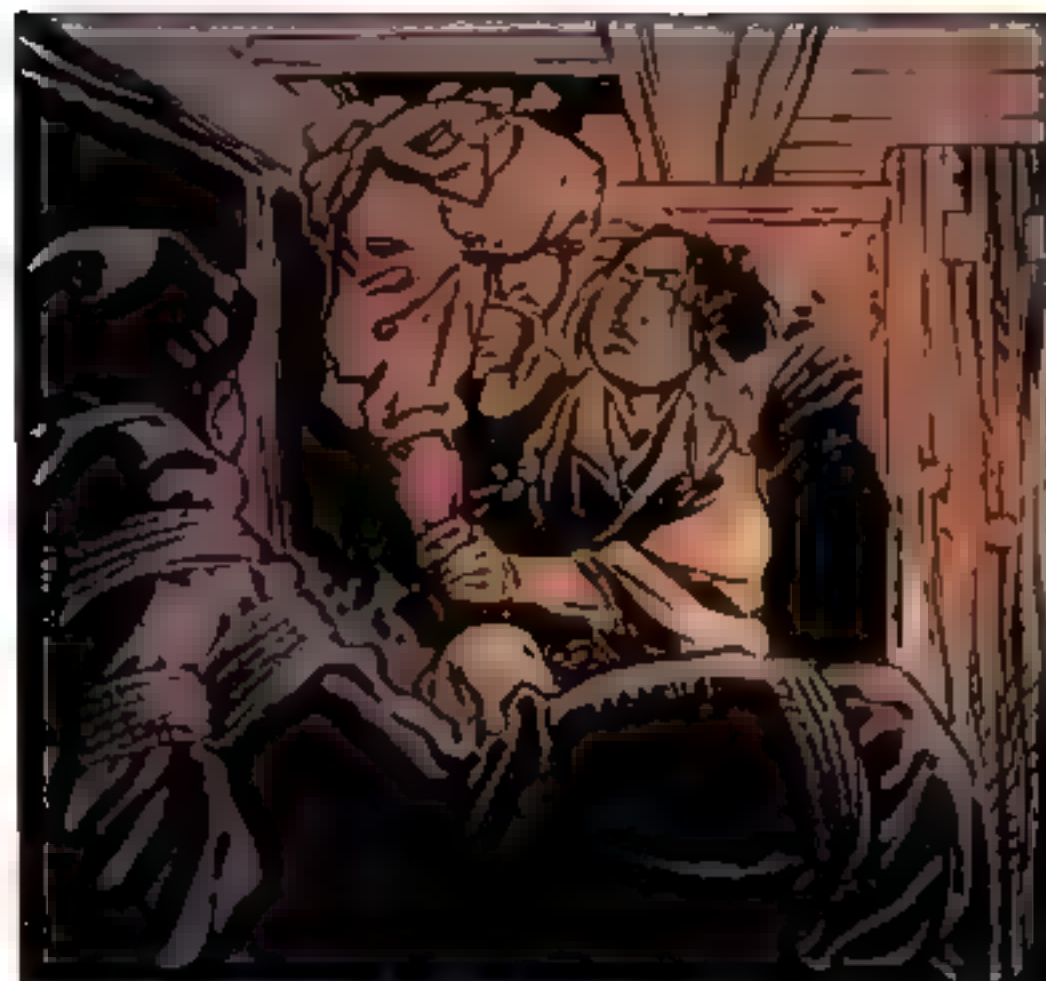
PLEASE... LIE DOWN,
WE'LL WATCH OVER YOU...



PEFF... THAT WAS SHORT!

AFTER THE OPIUM KICKS
IN, IT'LL BE MY TURN!

I'D RATHER CUT THAT
SWINE'S THROAT
OPEN INSTEAD
OF USING THIS.
IT'S SO... CHEAP!



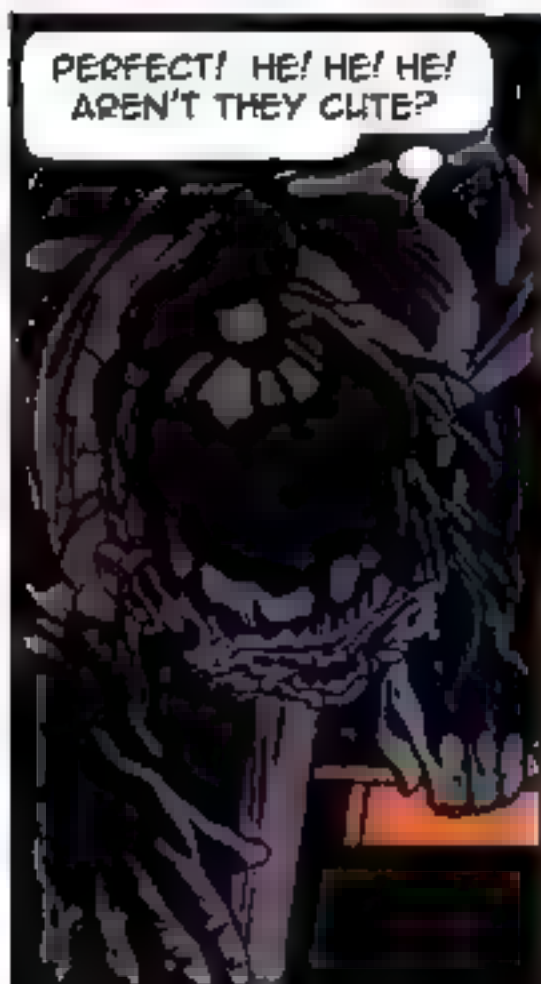
NOW, I MUST FIND
THE RIGHT SPOT... IN
WHAT SITUATION DID I
PUT MYSELF AGAIN?!



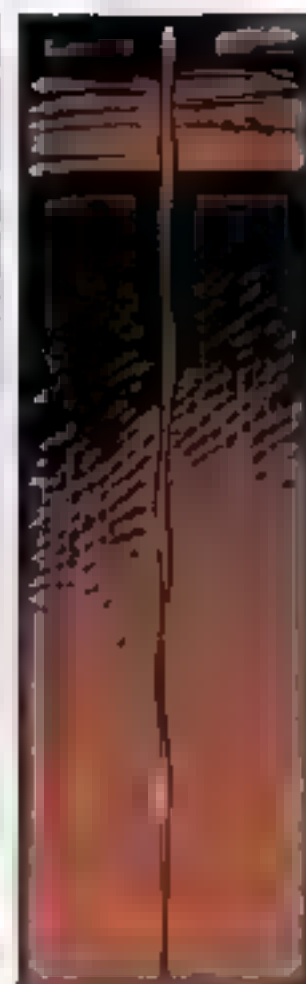
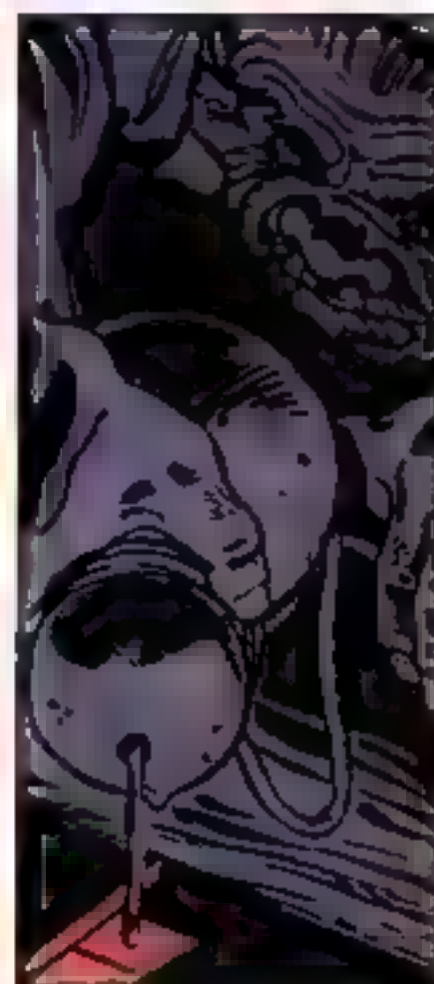
HERE...

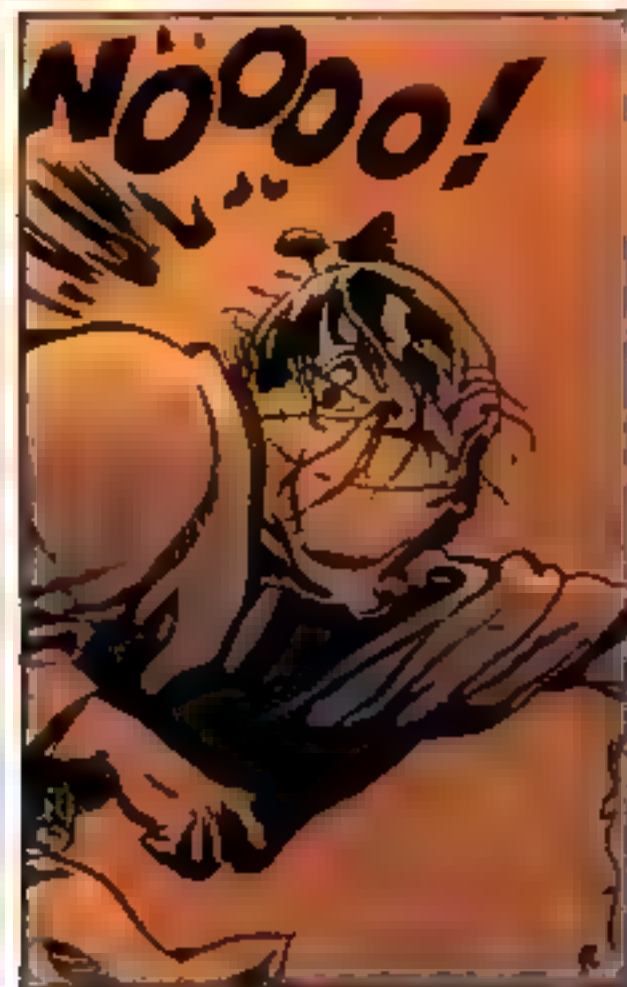
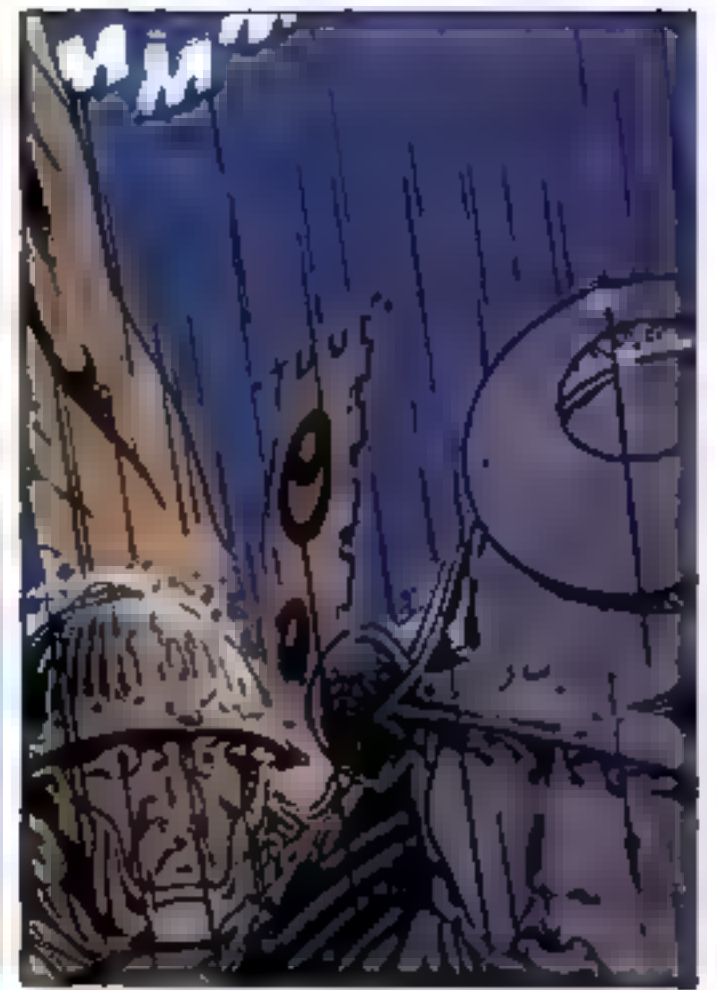
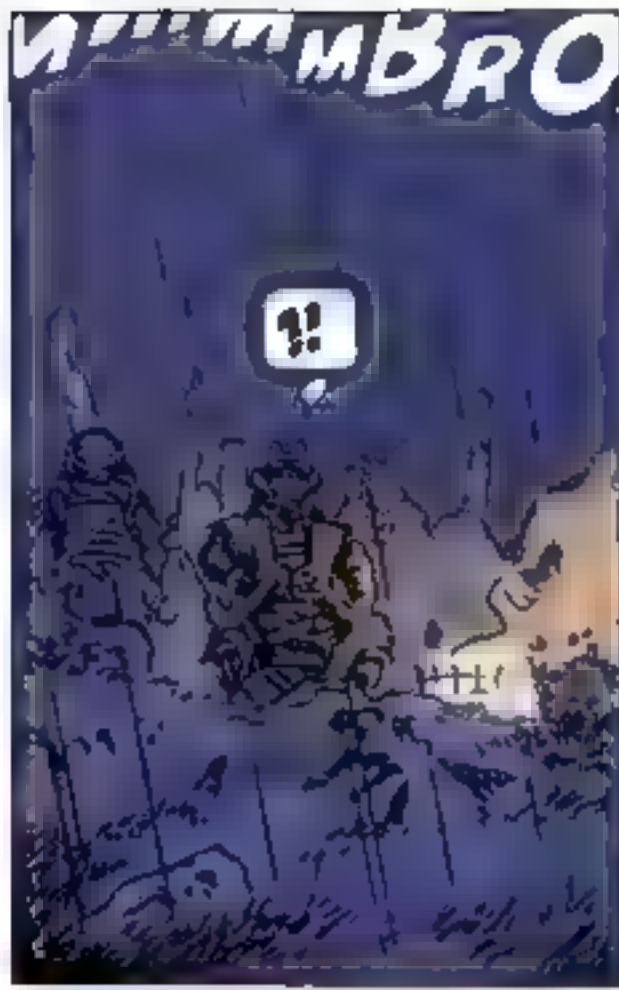


PERFECT! HE! HE! HE!
AREN'T THEY CUTE?



I JUST HOPE HE WON'T
WAKE UP TOO SOON!







WE ARE SAVED, MATSUMOTO-SAN! NOW IT WON'T BE DIFFICULT TO WAIT FOR THE SHOGUN'S REINFORCEMENTS!

HMM...



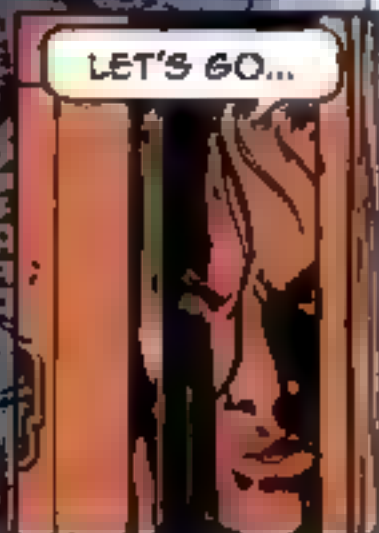
IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING TO TELL SIRE MITSURU. HE'LL BE HAPPY TO LEARN THAT FORTUNE FINALLY LOOKED UPON US!



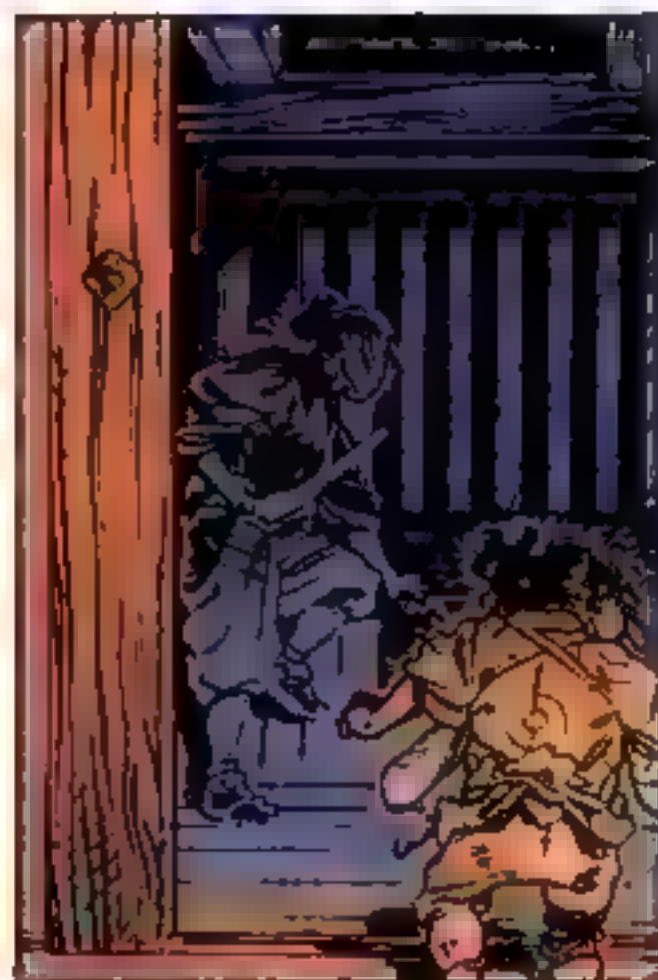
AND THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF THAT YOUNG COCK OF KOGARATSU WHO DIDN'T CARRY OUT HIS MISSION IN TIME!



THIS RAIN IS SWEEPING AWAY MY LAST HOPES OF TAKING THE PLACE! WE HAVE LOST...



LET'S GO...



ALL WE CAN DO IS PRAY... DAMN RAIN! BUNKA-SAN WAS RIGHT...

NOW I CAN
CONFESS. I HAD
NO HOPE FOR THIS
BATTLE! BUT NOW...

1

WHAT? SIRE
MITSURU!

SAVE ME! IT'S AN
ORDER! MY BROTHER'S
GHOST IS TRYING TO
KILL ME! I MUST
GET OUT OF HERE!

PREPARE THE MEN! WE...
YES! WE'RE LEAVING THE PLACE!
...HE MUSTN'T FIND ME!

BUT... THIS IS
RIDICULOUS! NOW
THAT WE HAVE WATER,
WE CAN...

OBEY! I... I AM
YOUR MASTER!
WE'RE LEAVING
IMMEDIATELY!

PK

HURRY UP! I'M GOING
TO HIDE... I'LL WAIT FOR
THE RIGHT MOMENT!
HE MUSTN'T FIND ME!

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO OBEY?!
HE'S GONE MAD! YOU
CAN'T RISK THE LIFE
OF THE PRINCESS IN
SUCH A WAY!

WHAT ELSE? HE IS MY LORD...
I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!
FORGIVE ME...

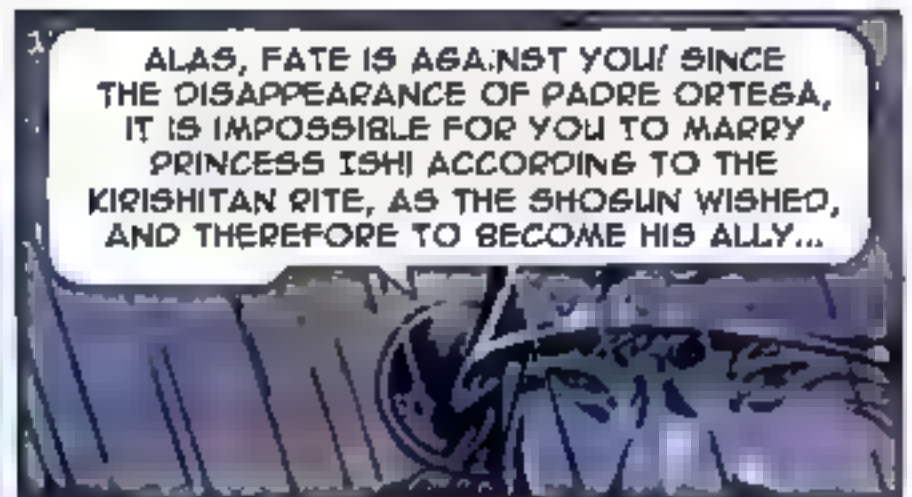


LORD
MITSURU!

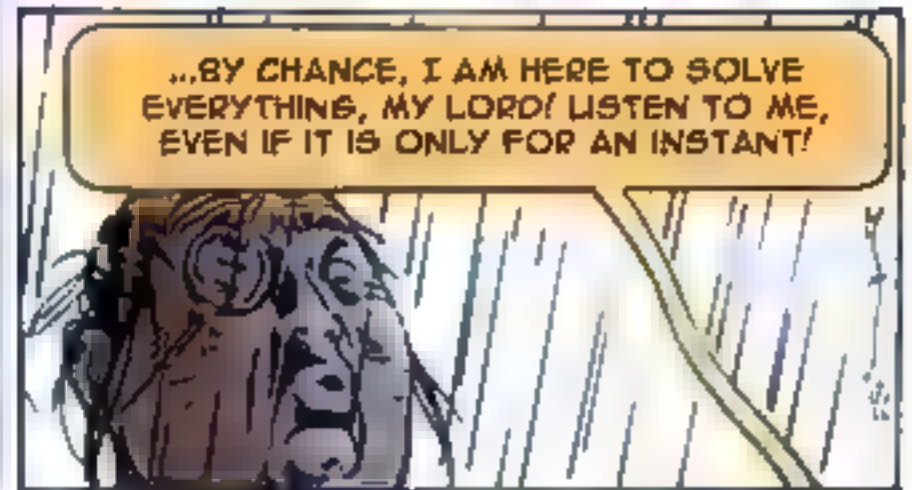


YOU ARE ENTIRELY
RIGHT TO LEAVE THIS
CASTLE, MY LORD!
IT IS HAUNTED!

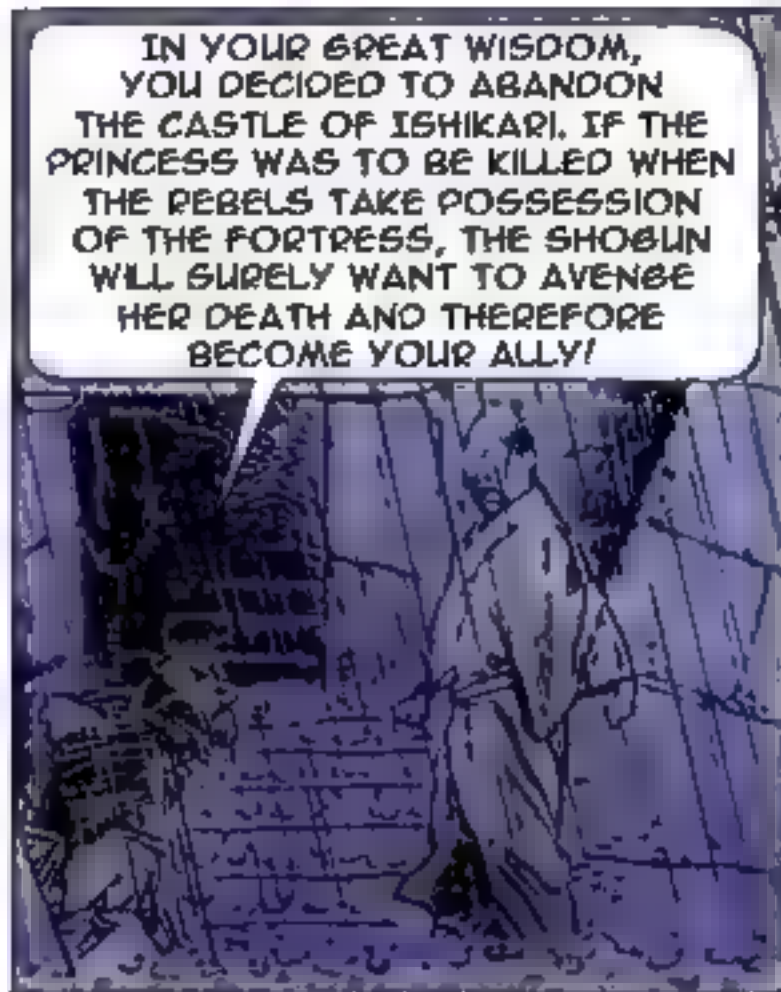
FUJITA-SAN!
AT LEAST, YOU
UNDERSTAND ME!



ALAS, FATE IS AGAINST YOU! SINCE
THE DISAPPEARANCE OF PADRE ORTEGA,
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO MARRY
PRINCESS ISHI ACCORDING TO THE
KIRISHITAN RITE, AS THE SHOGUN WISHED,
AND THEREFORE TO BECOME HIS ALLY...



...BY CHANCE, I AM HERE TO SOLVE
EVERYTHING, MY LORD! LISTEN TO ME,
EVEN IF IT IS ONLY FOR AN INSTANT!



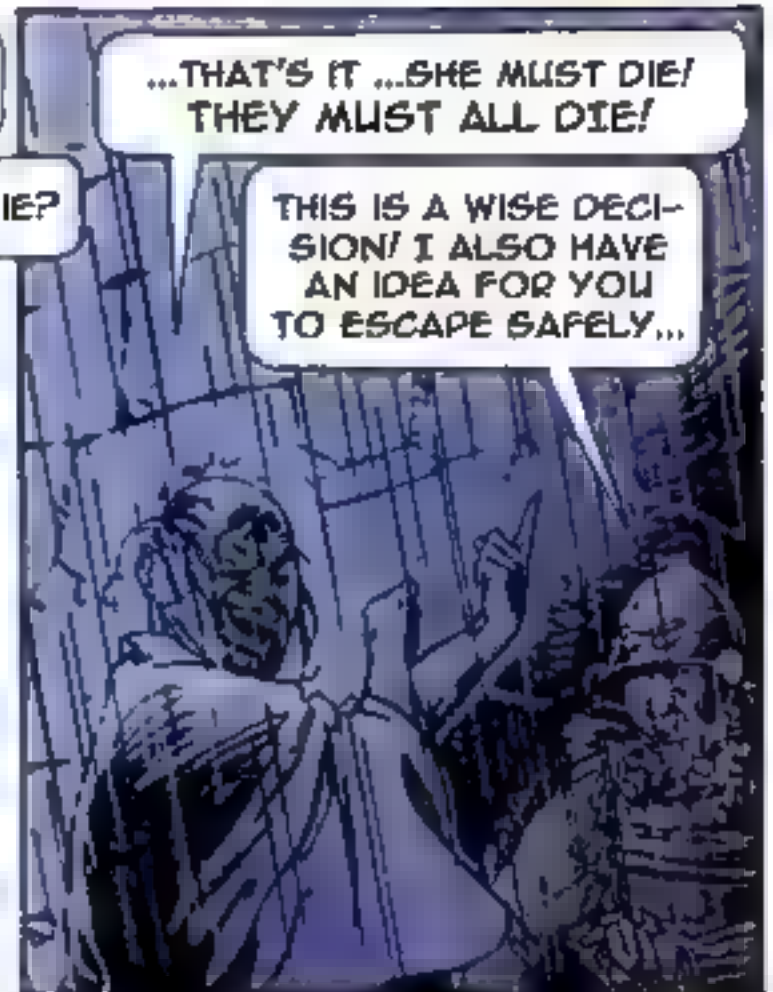
IN YOUR GREAT WISDOM,
YOU DECIDED TO ABANDON
THE CASTLE OF ISHIKARI. IF THE
PRINCESS WAS TO BE KILLED WHEN
THE REBELS TAKE POSSESSION
OF THE FORTRESS, THE SHOGUN
WILL SURELY WANT TO AVENGE
HER DEATH AND THEREFORE
BECOME YOUR ALLY!



HOWEVER, THE PRINCESS
MUST DIE FOR THAT!

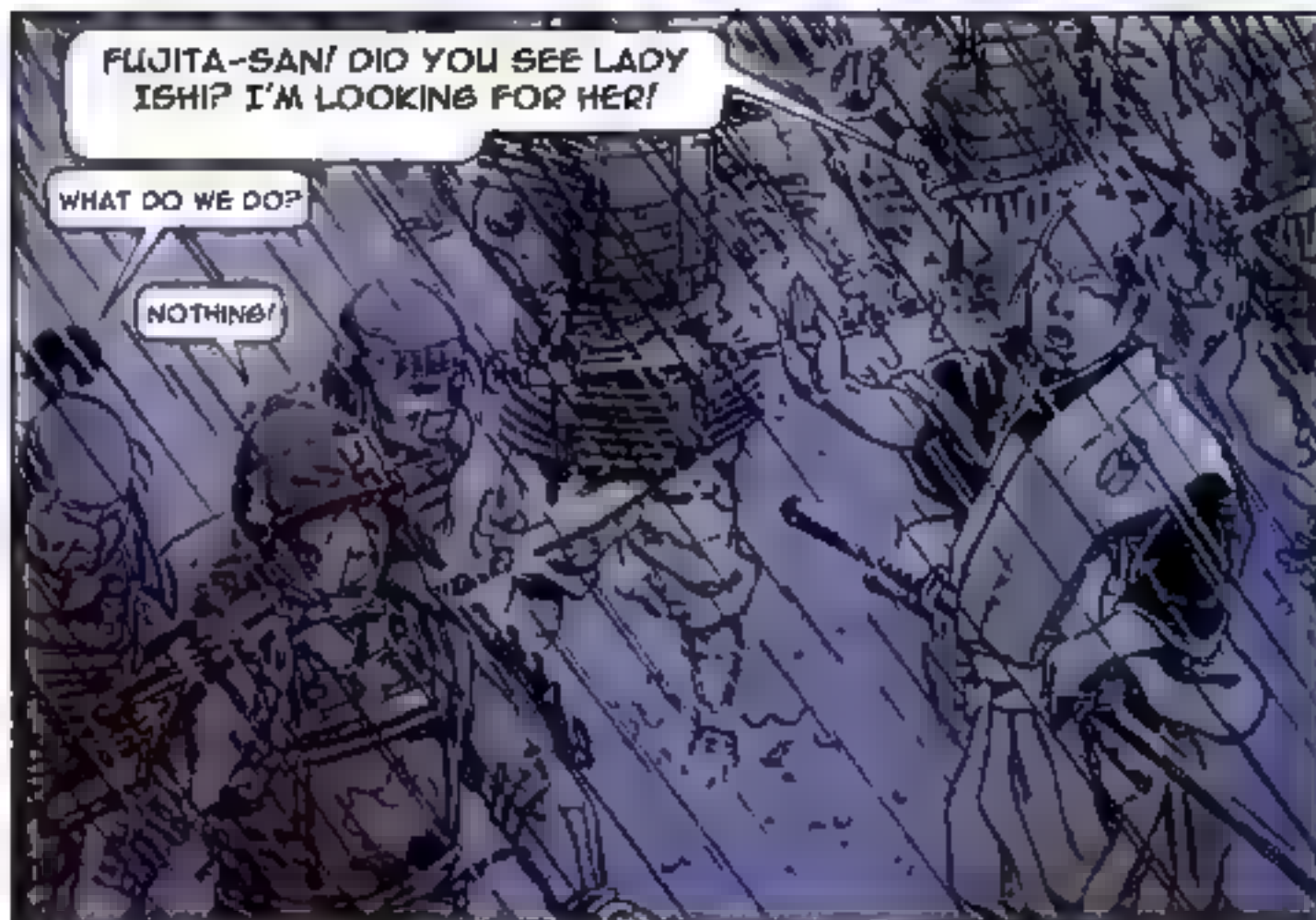


MUST... MUST DIE?



...THAT'S IT ...SHE MUST DIE!
THEY MUST ALL DIE!

THIS IS A WISE DECISION! I ALSO HAVE
AN IDEA FOR YOU
TO ESCAPE SAFELY...



FUJITA-SAN! DID YOU SEE LADY
ISHI? I'M LOOKING FOR HER!

WHAT DO WE DO?

NOTHING!



O! KIMENABE-SAN! I SAW
HER GETTING ON HER KABO,
OUT THERE, NEAR THE GATE!

THANK YOU!

THERE! THEY'RE LEAVING!
FOOLS! WITH THE RAIN, BANDO
WAS LOSING THE SIEGE!

HE! HE! HE!

AKUSHI! IT'S TIME FOR US TO
GO TO THE NORTH WALL TOWER,
AND RING THE ALERT BELL!

LET'S TAKE THE PASSAGE UNTIL
WE REACH THE INSIDE OF THE
DUNGEON, THEN WE'LL ONLY
HAVE TO ACT AS IF WE'RE
MEMBERS OF THEIR ARMY!

GOODNESS!
I HOPE I WILL
REACH LADY
ISHI BEFORE
SHE IS EXP-
POSED TO THE
ENEMY'S FIRE!

WE SEEM TO BE LUCKY!
WE'RE BREAKING THROUGH
THEIR FIRST DEFENCE LINES!


MAYBE WE
CAUGHT SIRE BANDO
OFF GUARD?

MY LORD! THE
ENEMY IS RUSHING
THROUGH OUR
LINES AS PLANNED!

HA! HA! HA! THE RAIN DIDN'T
CHANGE THE SITUATION! NOW THE
SIGNAL IS ABOUT TO BE GIVEN
AND THEN... HA! HA! HA!




YOU THERE! STOP!




DO NOT WORRY, LADY ISHI,
THE EXIT IS SAFE, AND YOUR
COLOURS WILL PROTECT YOU
FROM THE REBELS.



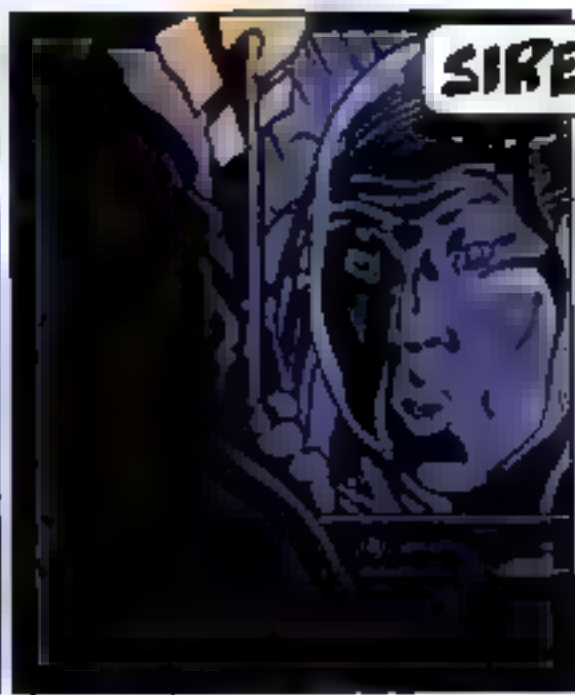
?




LADY ISHI?
...ARE YOU
FINE?



LADY
ISHI, I...




SIRE MITSURU!



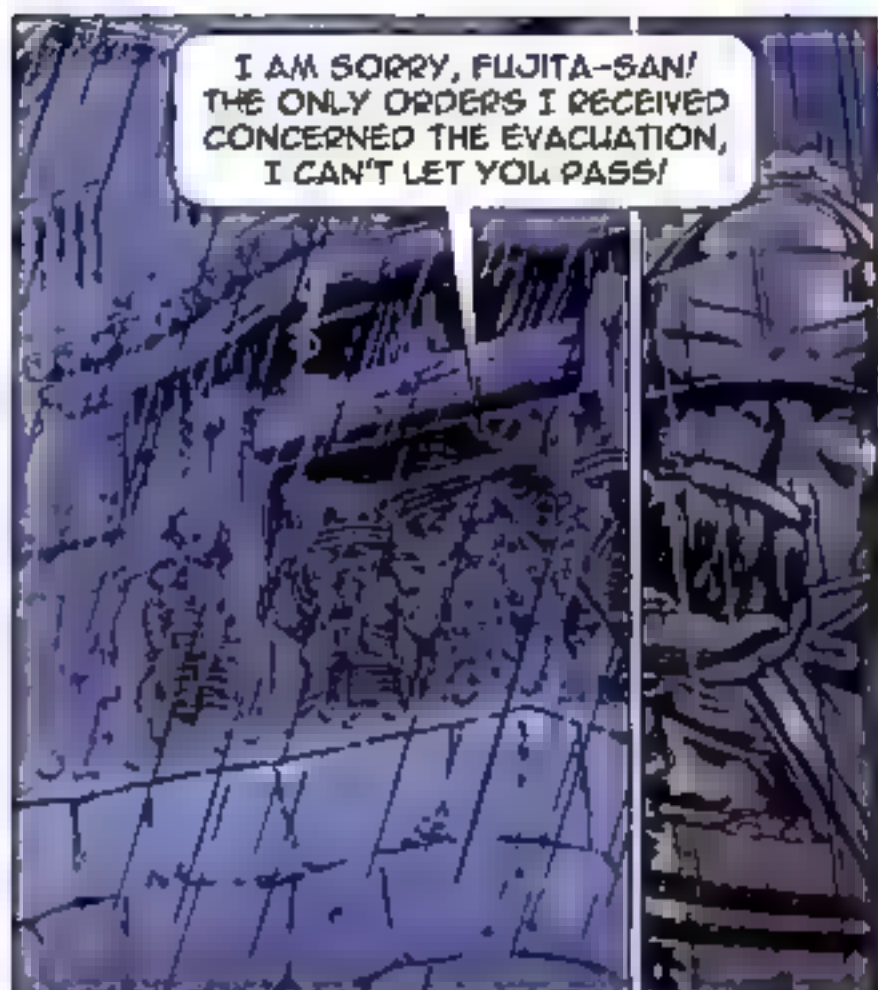
BUT THEN, WHERE
IS THE PRINCESS?
THE DUNGEON, OF
COURSE! SO THIS
IS WHERE FUJITA
WAS HEADED!



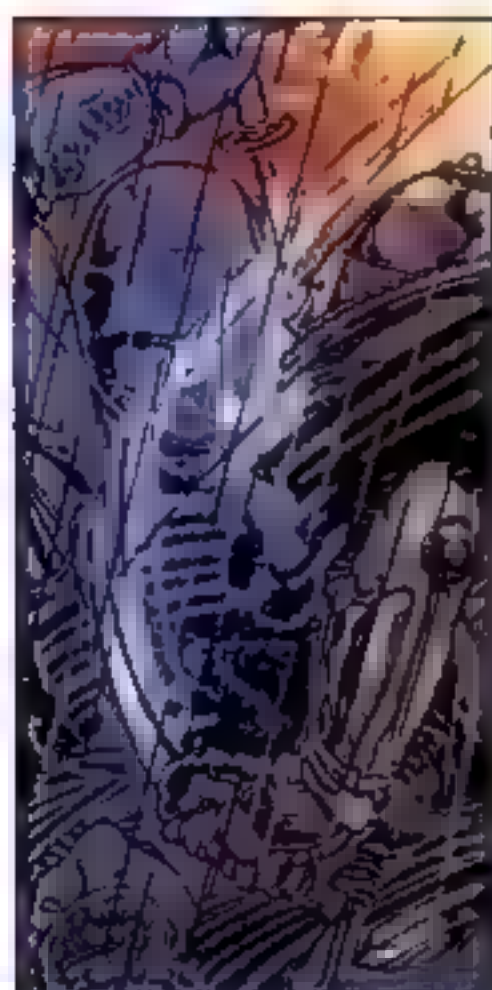
FUJITA! BLOODY DOG!
MOVE OUT! MOVE OUT!



AKUSHI! GO TO THE
BELL, NOW! I HAVE
TO GO SOMEWHERE
ELSE!




I AM SORRY, FUJITA-SAN!
THE ONLY ORDERS I RECEIVED
CONCERNED THE EVACUATION,
I CAN'T LET YOU PASS!



LET'S GO! AND
REMEMBER, NO
WITNESSES!



ISHI!




IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO DIE, PRINCESS!
THE FATE OF THIS PROVINCE MUST
FOLLOW ITS PATH! BUT YOU CAN LEAVE
IN PEACE, YOUR SERVANTS WILL NOT
HAVE TO MOURN YOUR DEATH!



YOU ARE A VILE SLUG,
FUJITA-SAN! A FOUL WORM!

HA! HA! HA!
HA!



A WORM WITH A
SINGULAR SHARP SUR-
VIVAL INSTINCT, PRIN-
CESS, NOTHING MORE...

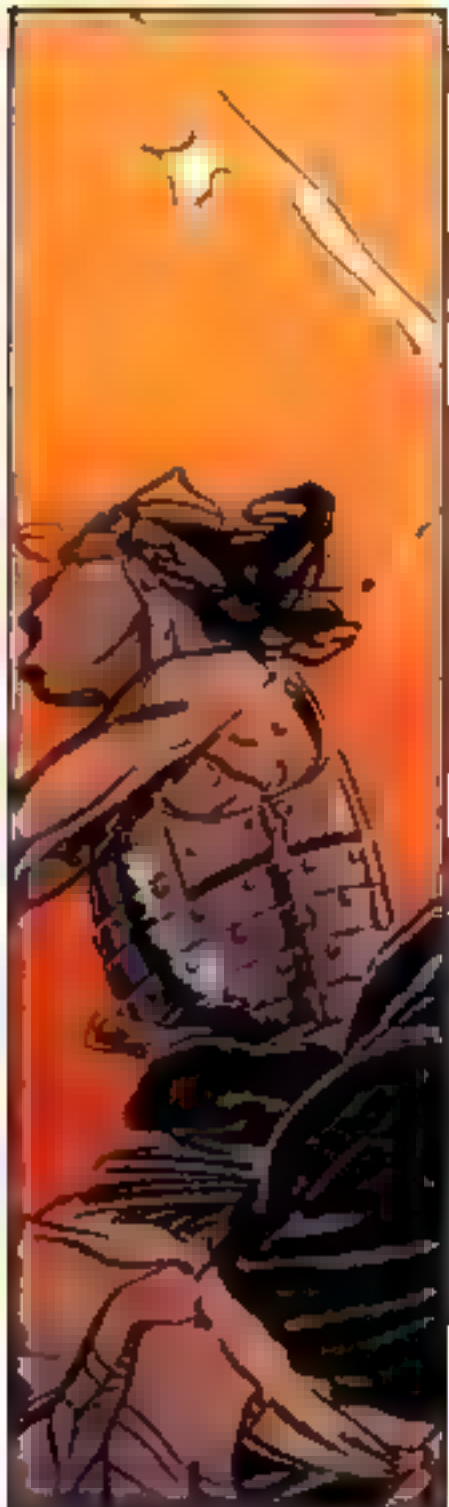
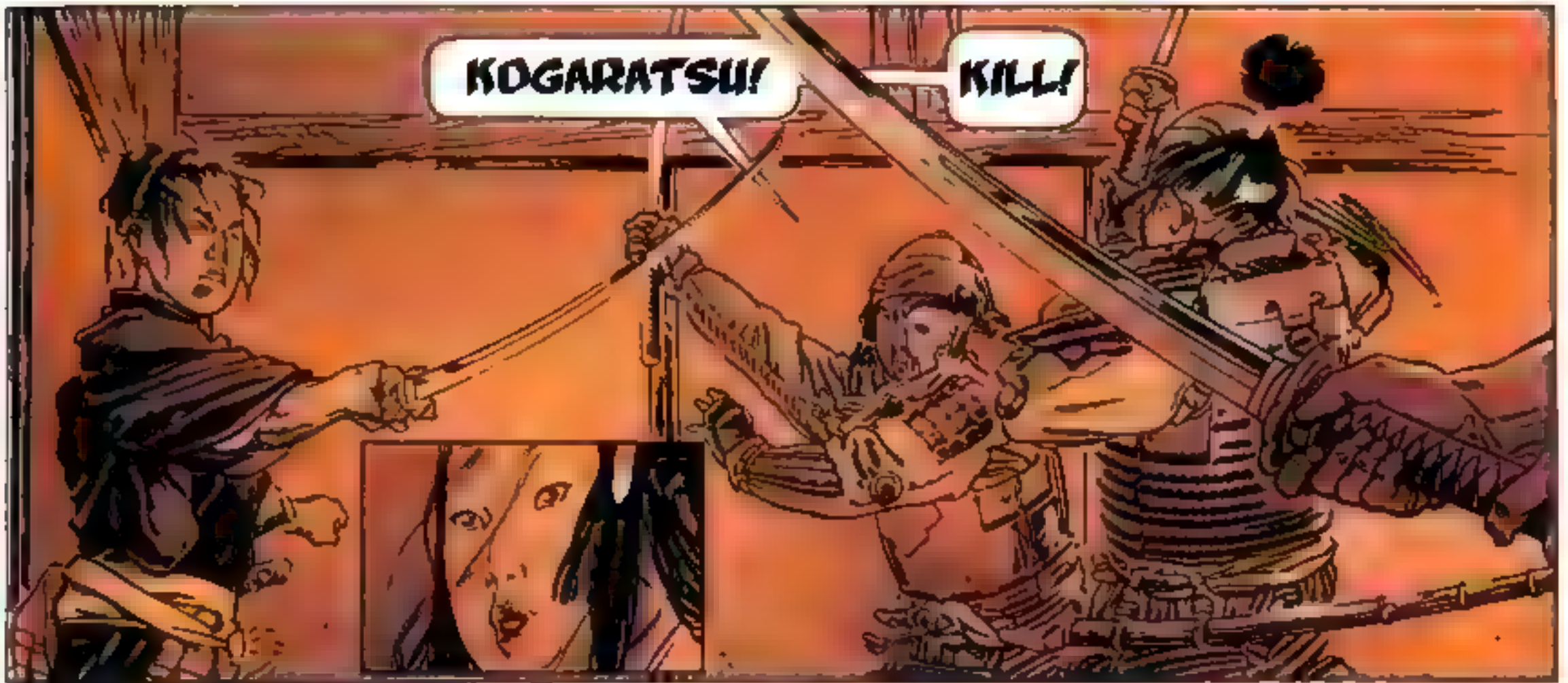


WORMS ARE SAID
TO CONTINUE TO
LIVE AFTER THEY'VE
BEEN CUT IN PIECES!
I REALLY FEEL
LIKE SEEING
FOR MYSELF,
FUJITA-SAN!

?

KOGARATSU!

KILL!





FOR SHINO!



AH... WHAT PRIDE IS THERE IN KILLING A PIG? ...SMALL VICTORY, SMALL TROPHY...



BOK



NO... YOU MUSTN'T... I FEEL DIRTY... SO MUCH HATRED... SO MUCH BLOOD...

ISHI-SAN...



...ONLY GOOD TO FEED THE WORMS!



THE SIGNAL!
AT LAST! AKUSHI!



HA! HA! HA! ALL OF MITSURU'S
ARMY HAS NOW LEFT THE CASTLE!
THE SLAUGHTER CAN START!



THIS... THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
THEY'RE COMING FROM EVERY-
WHERE! ...OUR BACK IS ALREADY
BLOCKED! WE'RE SURROUNDED!

MATSUMOTO-SAN!
OUR MEN ARE FLEEING!
THIS IS THE END!



YES, NABURO-SAN, THIS IS THE
END! LET US FINISH IN BEAUTY!



MOVE AND
I WILL GLADLY
EXECUTE YOU...

KIMENABE-SAN!
SPARE THIS MAN!

I KNOW, PRINCESS. HAVING SEEN
WHAT YOUR FRIEND IS CAPABLE OF... I
CHOSE TO ANNOUNCE MY PRESENCE!



LISTEN TO THESE SHOUTS, THE BATTLE IS
ENDING. THE REMAINING FORCES OF MITSURU
ARE BEING WIPE OUT. SIRE BANDO HAS WON!



...HE WILL BE
THE NEXT LORD
OF THE HOSO-I!



THIS IS THE PERSON,
WHO YOUR UNCLE, THE
SHOGUN, WILL CHOOSE
FOR YOU TO MARRY!

!! BUT...
THIS CAN'T
BE! WE
MUST
PREVENT
...



IT WAS OBVIOUS! WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
WOULD YOU REBEL AGAINST YOUR LORD?
YOU CAN'T SERVE YOUR MASTER AND BE
THE LOVER OF HIS WIFE!



GIVE UP! YOU KNOW IT IS IMPOS-
SIBLE! SWEET DREAMS HAVE NO
PLACE IN THIS WORLD! THE TWO
OF YOU WOULD BE CRUSHED!
...IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?!





EVERY MAN IS LIKE THE TIGER. HE HAS A BACK, A FLAW... IF THE TIGER, HIT ON THE BACK,
DOES NOT WANT TO DIE, HE MUST ACCEPT SHAME AND FLEE. AND EVEN IF HE SURVIVES,
NO ONE CAN FORESEE HIS FUTURE...

